

Rights group accuses Sudan regime of using cluster bombs

NAIROBI (R) — A Swiss-based Christian human rights group on Wednesday accused Sudan's Islamist-backed government of using internationally outlawed cluster bombs against the civilian population in war-ravaged southern regions.

The Christian Solidarity International (CSI), told a news conference in Nairobi that recent bombings mostly in and around the southern town of Chukudum near the Kenyan border, had displaced thousands of people and disrupted humanitarian aid in the area.

Gunnar Wielbalck, a CSI official who had just returned from southern Sudan, showed the conference slides and pictures as evidence that hundreds of cluster bombs were lying around in bushes at great risk to the population there.

"These (bombs) are unconventional arms outlawed by the Geneva Convention. They are capable of tearing a human body to

pieces," Mr. Wielbalck said.

A Sudanese embassy official denied Sudan used the bombs but pointed out that Chukudum was a combat zone between government forces and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"Our forces have never used cluster bombs. But remember that Chukudum is occupied by SPLA forces and not the civilian population as alleged by the CSI," the official said.

Mr. Wielbalck said the latest government raid on Chukudum was on June 17 when the Khartoum planes dropped 17 cluster bombs on the town's 5,500-population. No-one died in the raid.

"Our estimate is that hundreds, if not thousands of such bombs are lying around in bushes at great risk to the population there. These (bombs) are escalating the war in the south, people live in fear. It is a new stage of the war," Mr. Wielbalck added.

Sudan has been locked in war for the last 13 years between the rebel southern-based SPLA led by John Garang and Khartoum.

Over a million people have died in the conflict in Sudan since Mr. Garang's black Christian and Islamist rebels took up arms in 1983 for greater autonomy from the Muslim and Arabised north.

SPLA spokesman, Pagan Amum, told the same conference that the Khartoum government had used cluster bombs in 13 different areas of the southern region as part of its war against the SPLA. He did not give a time frame for the bombings.

"The Sudan government has used and continues to use cluster bombs against the civilian population in the south. The evidence is there for all to see," Mr. Amum added.

SPLA officials say their group had regained the military initiative following splits since 1991 and now controlled five regions

where the movement had established civil authority.

Mr. Garang, currently on a tour of Europe and America, last week appealed for international economic aid for areas under his control, saying such support would force Sudan's military government into a settlement.

The guerrilla leader said development of southern Sudan would "erode the appeal of Islamic fundamentalism by having a system in the south that works."

Aid workers and human rights groups have frequently accused the Khartoum army of indiscriminate bombings of civilian areas in the south and its militia of scorched earth campaigns against civilians.

They say women and children are routinely kidnapped for use as slaves or domestic labour but the government denies that slavery exists despite scores of accounts from escaped slaves.



JORDANIAN FAMILY NAMMASI WITH BABY YITZHAK RABIN IN PETAH TIKVA FACTORY: Rajai (left) and Maryam Nammasi pose with their five-month-old son Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday under a portrait of the slain Israeli leader in the factory where the Jordanian family live and work. Mr. Nammasi, who irked his countrymen by naming his baby son after Rabin, is trying to set up a new life for his family in the Jewish state to escape a smear campaign in his native Jordan that began after he visited Rabin's grave in April (Reuters photo)

Algerian journalists threaten boycott, strike

PARIS (R) — Algerian journalists on Wednesday said they would boycott official activities from July 14 and organise a 24-hour strike at national newspapers unless the authorities freed a detained colleague and met other demands.

A statement issued after a journalists' meeting on Tuesday in Algiers, said the journalists repeated a demand for the "immediate release" of Chawki Lamari, cartoonist for the French-language newspaper Liberte, and the ending of sanctions against the newspaper.

Algerian authorities arrested Mr. Lamari earlier this month saying he had mocked the country's flag in a cartoon. Police also detained La Tribune's director Kheirredine Ameyar and editor Baya Gacemi and interrogated them.

The statement demanded that the authorities drop all charges against the two. "Profoundly indignant over the continued detention of their colleague Chawki Amari, Algerian journalists decided to organise a one-day strike at all national newspapers in Algeria at the start of next week," the statement said.

It invited all newspaper editors to support their action. The journalists also decided "to boycott all official activities starting July 14," the statement said.

Netanyahu letter: Jews must be allowed to pray in Haram Al Sharif

From the Jerusalem Post

JEWIS MUST be allowed to pray at the Temple Mount despite Muslim opposition, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu maintains, in a letter presented to the Jerusalem District Court this week by former Jewish underground member Yehuda Etzion.

Mr. Etzion is being tried for allegedly attacking policemen who tried to

remove him from the Mount when he attempted to pray there last September. Jewish worship has been forbidden at the site since 1967, on grounds it would incite Muslims, who worship there at the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques.

Mr. Etzion presented the letter at a preliminary hearing held on Monday. He claimed that the letter, which Mr. Netanyahu sent him in response to a query

over a year ago, shows the prime minister supports changing the long-standing policy.

"I read your letter with interest," Mr. Netanyahu wrote to Mr. Etzion in March 1995. "The right of the Jewish people to its holy place — the Temple Mount — cannot be questioned."

"I believe it is necessary to arrange for Jewish prayer at the site, especially given that we permit freedom of worship to all the religions

in Jerusalem," Mr. Netanyahu continued. "Clearly, the matter must be dealt with the sensitivity it deserves. I believe we can do this properly when we return to govern the country."

Since the election, Mr. Etzion, who heads the Hatzikayim group, and senior figures in the National Religious Party, have called on the government to allow for Jewish worship on the Temple Mount.

Journalist held in Israel gets first lawyer's visit

HAIFA, Israel (AFP) — Lebanese journalist Ali Diya held in Israel has been allowed to see a lawyer for the first time since his arrest in South Lebanon a month ago, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Mr. Diya, 44, a correspondent for Agence France-Presse in the Israeli-occupied border zone in southern Lebanon, had not been mistreated, said lawyer Tamar Ullman, who visited Mr. Diya Tuesday in the Kishon jail close to the northern city of Haifa.

"He is being held in proper conditions," she added.

However, Israeli authorities have renewed his detention until July 17 and have still not drawn up precise charges against him. It is the first time that a Lebanese journalist has been taken to Israel for detention, and until Tuesday he had been refused all contact with a lawyer. Mr. Diya, who also works as a correspondent for the Lebanese daily Al Safir and Future Television owned by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was summoned by the Israeli security services on June 13. Israel said on June 18 he was facing serious charges of aiding the Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas which spearheaded resistance to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Hizbollah has denied he has any links with their Shiite militia. Several rights groups including Amnesty International have urged Mr. Diya's release.

Ramallah by night Palestinians get first taste of good times

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AFP) — After being hailed the West Bank's economic capital, Ramallah is fast becoming the hub of Palestinian nightlife as young people revel in their new freedom to go to bars, restaurants and nightclubs.

"Ramallah people like the good life," said Ricky Rukab, owner of a flashy new disco-pub called RR Cheers in the town centre which he aims to make "the smartest place on the West Bank."

Customers crowd round the bar to drink a new brand of Palestinian beer and listen to outdated British pop music on the Voice of Love and Peace, a private radio station popular with the young.

Even at midnight the crowds keep coming, often to celebrate the graduation of a friend or a relative from the nearby univer-

sity of Bir Zeit.

"I had to turn people away on Saturday night because there was no room," Mr. Rukab said smugly, keeping a close eye on bar staff immaculately dressed in white shirts and black and gold waistcoats.

In six months of autonomy, Ramallah's young people have quickly acquired the habit of going out during the evening — unthinkable during the intifada (Palestinian uprising) and the 28-year Israeli occupation.

The town hall has been flooded with requests to open new nightspots since Ramallah was passed to Palestinian control under the autonomy accords at the end of last year.

A big success has been Flamingos, which opened in February to serve up

Mexican food and beer. Its walls plastered with posters of Elvis Presley, James Dean and other American icons, it stays open until 2 a.m.

Flamingos manager, Sultan Habbub gave up a job in the Palestinian security services and scraped together \$300,000 in investment to open the bar-restaurant.

"This town has a long tradition of openness and a sizeable Christian majority. The refugees who flooded here (from Israel) in 1948 did not swamp its character," Mr. Habbub said, explaining why he thought the risk was worth it.

"In Gaza, the sheer density of people and especially the influence of Islamic fundamentalists do not lend themselves to a tolerant atmosphere like there is here," he added. Alcohol is banned in the Gaza Strip.

One customer drinking from a bottle of whisky chimed in that he "wouldn't live in Gaza for all the money in the world."

Kashouh Milad, who lived for 28 years in Sweden, said he had fulfilled his life dream by sinking his \$150,000 savings into Ramallah's newest restaurant, the Maroush.

"Ramallah is the most beautiful town in the Palestinian territories. It is already our economic capital and it will become our tourism capital, I'm convinced," Mr. Milad said.

Tourist spots including hotels are already under construction in Ramallah and Al Bireh, which have 70,000 inhabitants.

Korean prod wealth of h

Francesca Ciriaci

ROMAN — The annual Korean products show, which opened Monday at the Universal Expo Centre on University Road, is further proof of the cooperation between Jordan and South Korea and stands as a shining example for Jordanian businessmen and citizens of what a small country, with limited natural resources and no industrial base, could achieve in less than two decades by implementing policies focused on human resources development.

Jordan's situation, with its small population and a domestic market, is also highly educated and specialised human resources, presents many similarities with Korea, as Mr. Oh added that, as Korea's development was powered by the U.S., Jordan and the EU because of their economic interests in the Middle East and its strategic location and its status as a transit point of these same interests to boost its economic growth.

Mr. Oh said that Korea, whose per capita GDP has grown from only 18 years ago, is now up to \$10,000 in per capita income, a result of a three-year-long economic reform program and high level education.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Double Dragon (Cartoon)
15:30 NBA
16:00 Pirates
17:00 News flash
17:02 Children's Programme — Les Pollards
17:30 Varieties — Les Monde Est A Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30 News Headline
19:35 Here's Lucy
20:00 Varieties — Turatara
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature Film — "The Diamond Fleece"
23:10 Comedy — Family Matters

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr
05:33 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:41 Dhuhr
16:12 'Asr
19:49 Maghreb
21:22 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweiffish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622346
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 773131.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 652536
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures dropping slightly to become around average and winds westerly to northwesterly moderate to active. On Friday, temperatures are expected to drop further becoming below average. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
Dr. Khalil Taslog 757253
Dr. Bahjat Bader 832642
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 830432
Dr. Yahya Abdul Raheem 836072
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 637630
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najih pharmacy 847632
URBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Tareq Hijazi 985445
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, 644281/6
Akliah Maternity, 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Manshar Hospital 6672279

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir, 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 365199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are

supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

09:15 Dhahran (add) (RJ)

09:30 Sanaa (RJ)

10:05 Riyadh (RJ)

10:20 Beirut (RJ)

10:30 New Delhi (RJ)

10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

11:00 Colombo (RJ)

11:00 Dubai (add) (RJ)

17:20 Moscow (RJ)

17:30 London (RJ)

17:30 Casablanca (RJ)

17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

19:15 Athens (RJ)

20:15 Bangkok, Calcutta, Al 'Ain (RJ)

20:20 Rome (RJ)

20:30 Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

01:15 Lamaca (RJ)

Other Flights

06:30 Tel Aviv (LY)

13:40 Doha (GF)

14:00 Riyadh (SV)

14:40 Sharjah (AH)

20:35 Cairo (MS)

20:55 Paris, Damascus (AF)

21:10 Beirut (ME)

23:20 Istanbul (TK)

23:25 London (RJ)

23:40 Amsterdam (KL)

03:00 Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 Aqaba (RW)

19:45 Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

04:00 Riyadh (add) (RJ)

04:00 Dubai (add) (RJ)

06:35 Beirut (RJ)

07:00 Moscow (RJ)

11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:00 Abu Dhabi Al 'Ain (RJ)

12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

12:15 Rome (RJ)

12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

13:10 Paris (RJ)

13:20 Athens (SV)

13:25 London (RJ)

20:45 Lamaca (RJ)

21:10 Cairo (RJ)

21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

22:00 Jeddah (RJ)

22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

03:45 Dhahran (RJ)

Other Flights

07:25 Tel Aviv (LY)

07:45 Beirut, London (BA)

08:45 Beirut (ME)

14:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

15:30 Riyadh (SV)

15:30 Algiers (AH)

21:25 Cairo (MS)

23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)

00:40 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)

04:00 Rome (AZ)

06:00 Istanbul (TK)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

10:00 Aqaba (from Marka Air-

port) (RW)

20:50 Aqaba (from Tel Aviv) (RW)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg

Apricot 800/500

Apple 700/500

Banana 600/600

Banana (mukhammar) 520/520

Banana (imported) 830/600

Cabbage 210/140

Carrot 130/80

Cauliflower 220/160

Cucumber (large) 240/140

Algerian
journalists
threaten
boycott,
strike

Home News

Princess Rahma urges youth towards community activities

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan Wednesday stressed the value to the country's youth of working on land-related activities.

Ministry of Youth Secretary General Issam Arida opened a four-day symposium on planning youth projects and finding capital for them by delivering a speech on behalf of Princess Rahma.

The Princess stressed the need for youth to find ways to benefit from the land as a source of income as was achieved in neighbouring countries, she said.

The Jordanian national youth movement, she said, needs rejuvenation and not just with slogans and national folklore songs, but with practical steps allowing it to become more productive, especially through

working the land.

The Jordanian youth, she added, continue to face chronic problems such as unemployment and drug abuse which can be overcome through collective work, and a stronger dedication to serving the country.

In her speech, Princess Rahma said that the concerned authorities should help the youth take the initiative in dealing with unemployment and provide them with jobs that are currently filled by hundreds of thousands of foreign workers.

The symposium, organized by the Jordanian Association for Family Planning and Protection (JAFPP) in co-operation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Al Mustaqbal

Club, will address issues related to planning, organizing, and implementing projects, as well as finding capital for their execution.

The work and activities of the JAFPP were outlined by association member Buthaina Jardaneh, who presented details about the health and family planning services to rural families in the remote regions. She said that last year, the association organized a series of workshops to educate women on family planning.

USAID Director William T. Oliver told the audience that the symposium aimed at helping governmental as well as non-governmental organizations assist youth in improving their standard of living by educating them on the importance of family planning.

Majali urges adherence to construction regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali Wednesday opened a five-week training seminar on construction materials and urged concerned parties to ensure that these materials correspond to nationally approved specifications and standards.

The construction sector, he said, still faces problems due to lack of control over the quality of construction materials. Neglect of the standards and specifications, he added, often result in negative consequences.

The minister said the Jordanian Contractors Association, the Jordanian Engineers Association, the Royal Scientific Society and the Natural Resources Authority should join forces in conducting comprehensive, scientific and practical studies on locally produced building materials and recommend ways to ensure that only good quality materials reach the markets.

He also called on the Jordan Engineers Association to increase its control over private laboratories which test such materials.

Mr. Majali also called for upgrading the 1991 national specifications standards, as well as a national training programme for engineers in the construction sector.

World Population Day in Jordan takes hard look at HIV/AIDS

AMMAN (J.T.) — World Population Day, recognised today (Thursday) by the United Nations, emphasises community responsibility in the struggle against HIV/AIDS — one of the most prominent health issues facing the world's population.

"The purpose of this day is to shed light on the most prominent issues regarding world population and create a better understanding of these issues," said Lina Musa, programme officer for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). "This year, Jordan is sharing this day with a basic theme that instructs us to combat AIDS through collective efforts."

According to a statement issued by Nafis Sadik, executive director of the (UNFPA), approximately five people every minute contract HIV infection which leads eventually to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

"By the end of this century," he said, "more than ten million people will have died of AIDS..."

Dr. Sadik's statement was issued during a ceremony in Amman hosted by the UNFPA honouring World Population Day.

During the ceremony, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health Hashem Jedouh and Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh, both physicians, addressed the issue of AIDS and AIDS awareness in Jordan.

According to Dr. Jedouh, there have been



Participants attend a ceremony to mark World Population Day at Amra Forum Hotel

133 reported cases of HIV positive individuals in the last decade in Jordan. Of these, 46 are known to have AIDS.

According to the ministry, approximately 30 per cent of reported HIV cases were among foreign nationals.

Dr. Jedouh said that although Jordanian youth are generally well-informed about AIDS, officials need the cooperation of all quarters to encourage behaviour that would help prevent AIDS.

"Our youth are experienced in the knowledge of AIDS," he said. "Whether they hear it from internal or external sources — some-

times we find that our youth are actually more knowledgeable than we are."

"So it is time for us to start speaking to them in an open and frank manner about this issue. Socially, we keep saying that it is unacceptable, but it's really time."

"The problem that we face with our youth," he continued, "is that there is a significant difference between knowledge and practice."

"This is where we need help — from the family, from the mosque, from the church and in our schools," Dr. Shakhanbeh said that in addition to AIDS aware-

ness, Jordanians should be aware of the country's explosive population growth.

Jordan's annual population growth rate stands at 3.3 per cent with urban population growth surpassing that figure at 4.1 per cent, according to the UNFPA State of the World Population Report released last May.

The country's population has risen from 586,000 in 1952 to 4.1 million in 1994, he said, and is expected to reach five million by the year 2000.

He attributed this sharp growth rate to three waves of forced migration and to high fertility rates.



Chairman of the Jordanian-Korean Friendship Association Sami Gammoh and Korean Ambassador to Jordan Jungil Oh Monday open the 1996 Korean Products Show at the Universal Expo Centre

Korean products show displays wealth of human resources

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The annual Korean products show, which opened Monday at the Universal Expo Centre on University Road, is a further proof of the fruitful cooperation between Jordan and South Korea and stands as a glowing example for Jordanian businessmen and politicians of what a small country, with limited natural resources and no industrial base, could achieve in less than two decades by implementing policies focused on human resources development.

"Jordan's situation, with a small population and limited domestic market, but also highly educated and specialised human resources, presents many similarities with Korea, as it was 20 years ago," director of the Korea Trade Centre (KTC) in Amman Sung-Kuen Oh told the Jordan Times.

Pointing out that both countries enjoy a privileged strategic position in their respective regions, Mr. Oh added that, as Korea's development was supported by the U.S., Japan and the EU because it coincided with their strategic interests in Southeast Asia, Jordan, too, thanks to its geographical location and its political stand in the Middle East, can rely on the support of these same powers to boost its economy.

South Korea, whose per capita Gross National Product (GNP) has grown 10-fold in only 18 years, going from \$1,000 in 1977 up to \$10,000 in 1995, "has raised from the ruins of a world war and a disastrous three-year-long regional war by putting a special focus on its manpower and high level education," Mr. Oh said.

Stressing that "openness to the world is one of Korea's major foreign strategies, manifested by sharing know-how and expertise with its economic partners," South Korean Ambassador to Jordan Jungil Oh affirmed that "Jordan has great potentials, a suitable economic atmosphere and good grounds to set the basis for a bright economic future."

Fuelled by heavy and chemical industries and driven by a government policy focusing on exports, Korea's economic growth boosted the nation to the current status of the world's 12th largest trader, while its GNP is reportedly ranked at 11th in the world.

The world's six largest manufacturer of cars, fourth in steel production, second in ship-building and number one in the field of DRAM chips, Korea is not a miracle, but the fruit of "hard work," Mr. Sung-Kuen Oh told the Jordan Times.

According to the KTC, Korean-Jordanian economic relationships witnessed an increase of cooperation covering many fields of investment and trade.

Korean companies Goldstar, Samsung and Daewoo established joint venture projects with Jordanian counterparts to produce home appliances in the Kingdom using Korean technology and know-how.

Eleven Jordanian agents of a wide-range of Korean products, from home appliances and office equipment to passenger cars and commercial vehicles as well as automobile tyres and batteries, are taking part in the Korean products show.

While featuring a spectrum of the new Korean technologies to the Jordanian public, the exhibi-

tion also provides Jordanian agents, importers and joint-manufacturers with a chance to publicise their products and interact with the public.

Pointing out that "Korean businessmen are looking at Jordan as a gateway to enter other markets in the Mediterranean and Arab region, such as Syria, Iraq and the Palestinian self-rule area," Mr. Sung-Kuen Oh also stressed the need for "gradually reducing regional trade barriers and adjusting internal customs policies."

Regarding trade volume between the two countries, Korean exports to Jordan scored about \$141 million last year, while the Kingdom's exports to Korea amounted to \$50 million.

Jordan imports from Korea mainly automobiles, electronics and spare parts and exports potash, phosphate and Dead Sea products.

"If Jordan wants to enter the World Trade Organization (WTO), it will have to gradually reduce its customs to comply with international standards," Mr. Sung-Kuen told the Jordan Times.

This year's Korean products exhibition also features special events such as a daily drawing in which valuable prizes, including satellite systems, television sets, washing machines and refrigerators are assigned, an exhibition of Korean paintings, and the show of documentary films on Korea played in a specially-equipped Video Show Corner.

The exhibition will run until July 14, and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

PSD announces multiple arrests

AMMAN (Petra) — A Public Security Department (PSD) statement announced Wednesday that officials have apprehended several suspects in connection with drug trafficking and drug peddling, as well as others suspected of dealing in counterfeit foreign currency. The PSD said it referred the suspects to court for trial.

The statement said that in the past two weeks, the Anti-Narcotics Unit seized 67 kilograms (kg.) of hashish, 4.5 kg. of heroin, and a large quantity of other drugs smuggled from a neighbouring Arab country and destined to another. The statement did not name the Arab countries.

Also in the last two weeks, the statement said, the unit handled 13 drug peddling cases and arrested 35 suspects (Jordanian and other nationals) in different parts of the country.

The PSD statement added

that police arrested two people in the act of selling \$57,000 in counterfeit \$100 bank notes, and another person attempting to sell 11,000 counterfeit Saudi riyals. All three suspects, it said, were referred to court.

The PSD also announced the arrest of several people involved in selling land through forged deeds.

One of the cases mentioned in the statement involved the illegal sale of 59 dunums in the Marj Al Hamam district west of Amman, estimated to be worth JD 1 million.

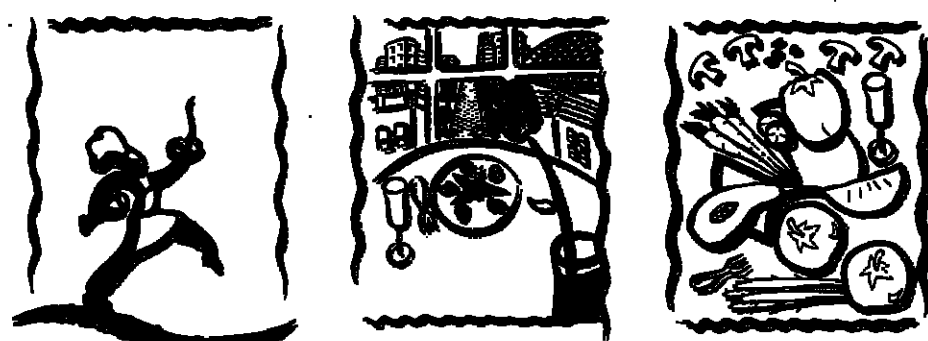
Another case involved a plot of 1,465 dunums in the Hamam Shamout district worth around JD 15,000.

The PSD said the police arrested several people while attempting to sell a 600 dunum plot using a forged real-estate deed in the vicinity of Qasr Snobar restaurant off the Queen Alia Airport road.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Wednesday visits Royal Jordanian (RJ) and meets with Chairman Basel Jardaneh to discuss the RJ restructuring process and ways to increase capital and alleviate debts (Petra photo)

THE OLD VILLA WITH SOMETHING NEW



Villa D'Angelo has reemerged this summer with a fresh new look and a superb new menu.

Our new executive chef will surely tantalize your taste buds with a whole new menu and a variety of daily specials.

The perfect place for a delicious salad bar lunch or a cozy candlelight dinner in our garden terrace.



Classic Mood...Excellent Food.
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WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

* An outdoor concert by folkloric artists Sami Gammoh and Bob Green at the American Embassy on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

PLAYS

* Two plays entitled "The Return to the Door of Didamoonah" and "Gallery" (Arabic) respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Play entitled "Aras" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday at 8:30 p.m.

FIRES

* "Bells de Dia" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabel Amman on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

* "Strangers on a Train" (by Alfred Hitchcock) at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

* "Breaking Free of the Earth" (with commentary in Arabic by Adnan Al Sharif) at Darat Al Funun, Jabel Weibdeh, on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION

* "Korean products Fair 96" at the Universal Expo Show, University Road, until July 14

Yeltsin thanks Russian voters for 'historic choice'

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin thanked Russians Wednesday for their momentous collective decision in electing him to lead the nation into the next millennium.

Looking stiff, the reclusive Kremlin chief hailed voters' "historic choice" in backing his sometimes-painful path of reform to an open society, rejecting a return to communism.

The 65-year-old president has not been seen in public since June 26, sparking speculation over his health.

Mr. Yeltsin said in an extract of a pre-recorded address shown on Russian television: "You managed to raise above your doubts and difficulties and to make a really historic choice."

"It is great confidence expressed in me by a great nation. I fully realise how great my responsibility is and will do everything to justify your trust."

Mr. Yeltsin was officially confirmed as president Tuesday when the Central Electoral Commission said the final result of last Wednesday's runoff vote gave him 53.82 per cent compared 40.31 per cent for Communist rival Gennady Zyuganov.

He spoke clearly in Wednesday's brief broadcast, but looked a shadow of the Yeltsin who danced the twist in the run-up to the

first round of the presidential election on June 16.

The president had been shown on television several times before Wednesday, meeting top aides or making a brief statement thanking Russians for their support.

Mr. Yeltsin is in the process of putting together a new government. He has made clear he would keep Viktor Chernomyrdin as his prime minister.

Mr. Yeltsin set to change his team after winning the new term in the Kremlin, may give liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky a senior government job, a source close to top-level talks said Wednesday.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said Mr. Yavlinsky might be named a first deputy prime minister with wide powers over finance and the economy. He said Mr. Yeltsin would make a final decision soon.

There was no independent confirmation of the report, from a source close to talks between Yavlinsky and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin.

Mr. Yavlinsky told Itar-Tass news agency after Tuesday's talks with Mr. Chernomyrdin that they had not discussed personnel issues.

Mr. Yavlinsky, 44, took fourth place in the first round of Russia's presidential election on June 16 with

just over seven per cent of the vote.

He urged his voters not to back Mr. Zyuganov in the July 3 run-off, but stopped short of asking them to vote for Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Yeltsin said in an interview ahead of the runoff ballot that Russia's government structure would be changed to increase the role of the deputy premier in charge of the economy.

The source said the new job would have three major responsibilities — finance, property and the economy.

He said the new minister would be also responsible for cooperation with international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, a task currently handled by Economy Minister Yevgeny Yasin.

This would give Mr. Yavlinsky, if he is appointed, similar powers to his economic rival Yegor Gaidar, who was in charge of Russia's first economic reform programme, launched in 1991.

But Mr. Yavlinsky, who has highlighted the need to boost investment, stop capital flight and improve tax collection, is a less radical economist than Mr. Gaidar, who saw free prices, a free economy and low inflation as his main economic priorities.

The present Russian gov-

ernment line-up includes two first deputy prime ministers — Oleg Lobov in charge of industry and Vladimir Kadanikov in charge of economic issues.

Mr. Yeltsin may be angry with Mr. Yavlinsky for attempts to bargain with him ahead of the first round, but Mr. Yavlinsky's economic ideas are broadly in line with the latest priorities of Mr. Chernomyrdin's cabinet.

Bringing Mr. Yavlinsky to the government could be profitable for Mr. Yeltsin as it would strengthen an anti-Communist bloc in the State Duma lower house of parliament, which will have to confirm Mr. Yeltsin's choice of a premier some time in August.

An alliance of Mr. Chernomyrdin and Mr. Yavlinsky could also create a strong counter-balance to Mr. Yeltsin's new security supremo, General Alexander Lebed, who has made clear he is seeking additional powers.

Mr. Yavlinsky used to advise Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and he has held several government posts but for very short periods.

His Yabloko Party is the biggest democratic alliance in Russia and the fourth largest faction in the Duma.



South African President Nelson Mandela (right) meets a member of the South African Music Village following a tree planting ceremony in St. James Park on the second day of Mr. Mandela's state visit to Britain Wednesday (Reuters photo)

Mandela dances in London park

LONDON (R) — Nelson Mandela danced in the early morning sun in a central London park Wednesday, celebrating an enthusiastic reception from star-struck Britons that he said was "beyond words."

The South African president began the second full day of his first state visit to Britain by planting a tree in St. James' Park, a short drive from Buckingham Palace where he spent the night under Queen Elizabeth's roof.

A crowd of several hundred, including civil servants in pinstripe suits on their way to work, turned up for the ceremony in aid of an appeal by her to the throne Prince Charles to replant the royal parks following a hurricane in 1987.

African singers and dancers in traditional costume welcomed Mr. Mandela, dressed in an open-necked shirt rather than the suit he wore for Tuesday's royal pomp and ceremony.

The plane tree planted in his honour was "strong, dependable and it lives a long time. It is a Mandela tree", the master of ceremonies told the president.

Asked to sprinkle a spadeful of earth on the tree's roots, Mr. Mandela shovelled and shovelled until it was politely suggested he stop. In a short speech he thanked Britain for the welcome and support he had received over the past 30 years.

"The hospitality from the royal family, the government and the people is beyond words. I did expect a warm welcome but what actually happened exceeded my wildest expectations," he said.

"Not just yesterday and today, the support has been there for a long time. During the anti-apartheid struggle we received enormous support from the people of Britain."

"I wish I could come here every week and see all these people ... and water the tree," he concluded.

He then walked over and joined in the dancing as the 55-strong troupe from all parts of South Africa chant-



South African President Nelson Mandela gestures as he stands with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II on his arrival at Buckingham Palace Tuesday for a state banquet in his honour (Reuters photo)

ed his name, to the delight of spectators some of whom had risen at dawn to see him.

On returning to the palace he met Labour opposition leader Tony Blair and the secretary-general of the Commonwealth, Emeka Anyaoku, before addressing a conference on investment in South Africa.

British Prime Minister John Major told 500 potential investors at the conference that Britain would champion better access for South African goods to the European Union.

"South Africa can look to Britain as a friend in the European Union who will help South Africa achieve access for a wider range of products," Mr. Major said.

Since his visit to South Africa two years ago, the first by a British prime min-

ister for 34 years, the two countries had built "a fellowship for the future" with cooperation in business, training, technology and promoting investment.

Mr. Major said he hoped that the City of London would be a channel for foreign investment to South Africa and he noted that South Africa's own economic development was crucial to the growth of the southern African region as a whole.

Mr. Mandela renewed his government's pledge to restructure and privatise public corporations.

"Firm decisions have been taken to privatise some of them, to acquire strategic equity partners for others and to redefine the role of the remaining ones," Mr. Mandela said in a speech at the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) conference.

More World War 1 graves desecrated in France

LILLE, France (R) — Two World War 1 military cemeteries have been desecrated in northern France, taking to three the number of French war cemeteries violated in the past few days, justice sources said Wednesday. About fifty tombstones were broken in the British Bouvay Cemetery, and three in the Canadian Orange Hill Cemetery, in the Pas-De-Calais Department. Last Sunday, 112 British war graves were discovered smashed in the Aval Wood Cemetery near Hazebrouck in northern France. Pierre Pasquini, the French junior minister in charge of veterans' affairs, condemned those responsible for the Sunday attack as "obviously lacking any moral or civic values" and pledged they would be brought before a court. He was expected at the Aval Wood Cemetery at Vieux-Berquin later Wednesday to express lasting French gratitude to British and allied troops. The 407 soldiers buried in the cemetery died in the last months of World War 1 in 1918, repelling the last German offensive.

Japan may lift ban on birth control pills next year

TOKYO (AFP) — Drug makers hailed Wednesday moves by the Health and Welfare Ministry to lift a ban on the use of low-dose contraceptive pills in Japan as early as next year. "We of course welcome moves toward the approval," said Chiuyuki Tanaka, a Janssen-Kiyowa Co. Ltd. official who represents a group of six pharmaceutical firms that requested permission of the ministry in 1990 to market the low-dose pill under license. "An overwhelming number of Japanese use condoms," he said. "But the pill will widen women's choice of birth control methods." Japan is the sole industrialised nation that bans the second-generation birth control pill, which has lower doses of a female hormone. High-dose pills are available by prescription. The ministry issued a guideline to approve the low-dose pill in 1986. But in 1992 it decided to delay approval, saying that use of the pill would risk aggravating the spread of AIDS or acquired immune-deficiency syndrome. Health and Welfare Minister Naoto Kan acknowledged Tuesday that the ministry's Central Pharmaceutical Affairs Council had been continuing "discussions on the approval for a fairly long period." "In recent years, more and more people think that they should be able to decide on the use of these pills themselves," Mr. Kan told a news conference. "It is very possible that the council will decide next year to allow the use (of the low-dose pill)," the minister said, adding that it was his "personal supposition." According to a recent survey by a major newspaper, 77.2 per cent of Japanese use condoms for birth control. Only 1.3 per cent use birth control pills, while 5.3 per cent opt for sterilisation.

Nepal mulls bill to legalise abortion

KATHMANDU (R) — A Nepali lawmaker presented a bill in parliament Wednesday that would legalise abortion, in a bid to give women greater rights and check high maternal death rates in the tiny Himalayan kingdom. "The bill is required to check the high maternal mortality rate and to safeguard the reproductive rights of women," said lawmaker Sunil Kumar Bhandari. The penalty for undergoing an abortion in Nepal is a prison sentence that can last up to three years. Mr. Bhandari said 8.5 of every 1,000 pregnancies in Nepal result in deaths, half of them due to unsafe abortions.

N. Ireland Protestants stage more riots; Major condemns 'mob'

BELFAST (R) — Angered by a parade-ban, Protestant crowds set shops and vehicles ablaze and clashed with police in a third night of Northern Ireland's worst rioting for years.

Prime Minister John Major Wednesday condemned "mob violence" in the province torn for decades by sectarian tensions between majority Protestants and Catholics.

Britain put 1,000 extra troops on standby to go to Northern Ireland to beef up a 17,500 garrison, which is supplying troops to help the province's police force to keep order.

The riots were sparked by a police ban on pro-British Protestants marching through a Catholic district.

Police said there had been "rioting, petrol bombing and stoning" in many districts. Shops and vehicles were set on fire.

"There have been police injured, rioters have been injured and there has been a number of arrests. Baton rounds (plastic bullets) have been fired," a Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) police spokesman said.

In London, Mr. Major told the province's Protestants and Catholics negotiation was the way to defuse tension triggering the worst riots for years.

Mr. Major denied the violence was jeopardising a peace process sponsored by the Irish and British governments, already badly shaken by the ending of an IRA ceasefire on the mainland.

Asked if the violence effectively meant the peace process was at an end, Mr. Major said: "No, it isn't."

"The confrontations we've seen — the mob violence we've seen — do nobody any good in Northern Ireland and I think the best way that is going to be resolved is by negotiation at local level between the communities," Mr. Major told reporters in London.

Angry loyalists, so-called because of their allegiance to British rule, hijacked vehicles and used them to barricade roads overnight. Several shops were torched in staunchly Protestant East Belfast.



Riot police arrest a loyalist in Belfast after clashes on the third successive night of rioting across the province Wednesday. Loyalists are protesting about the ban on a Protestant Orange Order march through a Catholic area of Portadown (Reuters photo)

Dick Spring said the situation was very serious.

"We were a very short time ago quite optimistic about the (June 10) opening of (multi-party peace) discussions and negotiations, and we have seen a possible return to Northern Ireland at its worst in the last number of days," Mr. Spring said.

The violence began Sunday when police prevented members of the Protestant Orange Order marching through Drumcree, a Catholic area of Portadown, south of Belfast.

Drumcree was reported quiet Wednesday after late night fighting between Orange Order supporters and police.

Mr. Major said he hoped peace would be reestablished before Friday, the July 12 "Orangemen's Day" when tens of thousands of Protestants hold processions across the province. Catholics regard the processions as provocative and triumphalist.

"I hope that over the next couple of days everyone with any influence will use that influence to encourage the communities to talk at local level and to bring this present impasse to an end," Mr. Major said.

By daylight key roads in Belfast and in normally busy market towns remained blocked with burnt vehicles or felled trees.

Trouble zones included the towns of Donaghadee, Bangor and Ballymena. A Catholic Church was set on fire in Donaghadee.

Catholic Church authorities said Cardinal Cahal Daly, religious head of the partition island's five million Catholics, had returned home from abroad to take part in conciliation talks with David Trimble, leader of the main Protestant political party, the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP).

Mr. Trimble had asked for a meeting with Protestant and Catholic Church leaders, which was due to start later Wednesday.

Death toll in China floods breaches 500 mark

BEIJING (AFP) — The death toll from flooding in central, southern and eastern China hit 500 Wednesday as officials warned of a pressing need for food, clothing and blankets.

According to the Civil Affairs Bureau in Anhui, the death toll in the central province had risen from 70 to 99, while the authorities in the southern province of Guangxi said the number of dead had increased from 50 to 71.

The new figures brought to 500 the death toll from flooding that has hit nine provinces in the past 10 days.

In Guangxi, an official with the Provincial Disaster Relief Department said there was an urgent need for food, clothing and blankets for the some seven million people affected by the floods there.

Meanwhile, international relief efforts were facing difficulties Wednesday in reaching the worst-hit areas.

The airport in Guiyang, capital of the southwestern province of Guizhou, was extensively damaged by flooding last week and could not be repaired in time to receive a first batch of aid from Europe's Medicines Sans Frontières (MSF).

The aid, including medicines and water-purifying equipment was flown in to the southwestern city of Kunming early Tuesday, and was scheduled to have been loaded onto smaller planes and transferred to Guiyang Wednesday, together with five disaster relief specialists.

Guizhou was one of the worst-hit provinces, with 136 people reported to have died in flooding since June 31.

A Red Cross official in Guiyang said alternative arrangements had been made to transport the aid by train Thursday, following repairs to the 450-kilometre rail link with Kunming.

MSF has sent two more plane loads of aid to Anhui and the eastern province of Zhejiang.

All 17 on board feared killed in Papua New Guinea air crash

SYDNEY (R) — All 17 people on board a Twin Otter light aircraft were feared killed Tuesday when it slammed into the side of a mountain in Papua New Guinea, airline and government officials said Wednesday.

"It is extremely unlikely that anyone has survived," said a spokesman for local airline Milne Bay Air, which operated the De Havilland 19-seat aircraft.

"We believe there are 17 dead," he told Reuters by telephone from the Papua New Guinea capital, Port Moresby.

A team of air safety investigators has been sent to the crash site, about 2,800 metres above sea level on a mountain near the southern highlands provincial capital, Mendi.

The plane, piloted by an Australian, is believed to have been flying in heavy cloud and rain late in the afternoon when it

crashed, the National Disaster and Emergency Service said.

"He was apparently going in to land at Mendi overnight... and Mendi was closed in (by bad weather) and he was going somewhere else. That's when it happened," the service's director-general, Leith Anderson, told Reuters by telephone.

The plane was flying from the remote outpost of Bosavi to Mendi, which is ringed by mountains and sheer cliff faces.

The death toll could climb higher, Mr. Anderson said, citing unconfirmed reports that the plane might have been carrying up to 19 people. Almost all of the dead are thought to be Papua New Guinea locals, he said.

"I hear that there could have been two Australians on board — one pilot and one passenger," Mr. Anderson said. "A police team are in recovering the bodies," he added.

Australia's Foreign Ministry confirmed that an Australian pilot was believed to be among the dead. "The (airline) company itself is dealing with the next of kin, but we understand one Australian was killed," a ministry spokesman said.

The airline and Office of Civil Aviation declined to comment on the cause of the accident — the second fatal crash involving a Milne Bay Air-operated Twin Otter in a year.

Twelve months ago 15 people died when a Twin Otter crashed into a beach on the southeast tip of the South Pacific country.

Papua New Guinea is considered one of the world's most hazardous countries for flying due to its mountainous terrain. Light planes are often used for short trips because of the country's limited road networks.

N. Zealand to p

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Wednesday the country shook Mount Ruapehu volcano as a major threat to ski operations. "It's a fantastic tourism attraction and it's incredible to see and to witness John Banks after flying over the mountain when it belched incandescent lava 30 feet across. But they said that's the sort of thing that will put the volcano in the news," a volcanologist said. "The small explosions and the volcanic gases were likely to be a central North Island regions."

The Civil Defence Ministry said it was not a major threat to ski operations. "The ski slopes looked like a red carpet this morning. That's part of the problem who are in the ski industry," it said.

"If the ski season is lost, it will be a disaster for the businesses here, and I'm sure they don't have to be told," said a spokesman on behalf of them (the ski industry) to bail out business. "They don't want that. They're very keen they're going through quite a bit of losses are estimated at tens of millions."

The manager of the Turoa ski area said about half of his 120,000 visitors had left off, and would only be a real estate agent said he had



New recruits for the Burundian army in Bujumbura. The movement which has recently

BURUNDI (R) — Burundian troops killed at least 22 rebels after they attacked a camp north of Bujumbura, an army spokesman said Wednesday. He said the rebels killed one soldier and wounded another on the Monday attack on a camp of 1,200 rebels, located 30 kilometres north of the capital Bujumbura in Burundian province.

Government troops killed rebels in an ambush fire and later found the bodies of at least 10 others. Also Monday, the spokesman said rebels ambushed a military vehicle in Kabazi, about 100 km from the capital, and killed an army sergeant and a soldier, but were not successful.

A rebel hit-and-run guerrilla war between the army and the rebels of the RPF movement has killed more than 15,000 people in the small but densely populated central African country since 1993.

Meanwhile, Claude Gaudence, one of the late Burundian presidents' trial, has been moving in a court case after she lost her appeal and an army in an attack on her village. "The soldiers hunting her," he said.

A grenade had left a huge hole in her back where her 20-month-old baby was kept and died instantly. Her arm was amputated because of the blow because of shrapnel and grenade wounds. Burundian like 19-year-old Maniramba and her baby are hearing the name of Burundi's tribal war which has claimed more than 150,000 lives since 1993.

A senior Western human rights official, who asked not to be identified, warned that the pace of massacres in the central African state had increased dramatically in recent months.

N. Zealand to p

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When the posturing ends...

IN THE knowledge that the U.S. president and his administration were not going to change either the form or substance of their relationship with the Israelis until well into next year, when a re-elected Bill Clinton will be free of electoral constraints, "Bibi" Netanyahu found it opportune to use his stay in Washington to dispense free propaganda. It would be truly unfortunate if the Americans, or anybody for that matter, took his recipes for peace in the Middle East too seriously.

It is all right if the new Israeli prime minister would have Arab children educated to "accept and learn to live with (Israeli) children... (and be) taught that Israel is an integral, legitimate part of the (Middle East) region..." But try to sell his words of wisdom to the children of Hebron and the other Palestinian cities and villages that remain under Israeli control or enclosure, and their eyes will tell you that they are in no mood to be lectured on peace while their parents cannot provide food and adequate means of life for them. Netanyahu would be taken infinitely more seriously if he ordered a lifting of the closure against Gaza and the West Bank, just as in fact his military people have been advising him, and he knows it.

Likewise with the golden words in his favourite caveat "peace with security" Netanyahu, when he has had the chance to settle and show his true colours in the aftermath of his dizzying electoral victory, will recall with passion the words that President Clinton used in their joint press conference on Tuesday: "Peace without security is impossible, and... security without peace cannot be achieved."

While we wholeheartedly agree with Netanyahu that "those who are on the side of peace must show complete dedication to the fight against terrorism," he should give more thought to the questions of which comes first, peace or security, and what breeds violence. If it is to the Palestine National Authority that the prime minister is directing his speech, he might want to read what one respected and neutral magazine, The Economist, has written about the subject: "... it is unlikely that Mr. Arafat would do anything to unravel the web of alliances that bind Israel's security forces to his own. These, after all, give him his main leverage on the Israeli government. His dilemma is that the more he wins the trust of Israel, the less he is trusted by some of his own people in the West Bank and Gaza. The authority is already under fire from human-rights organisations — both international and Palestinian — for its trampling on civil liberties."

But if it is Syria that Netanyahu had in mind when he spoke his words, then he should realise that the exchange of land-for-peace is a sine qua non for continuing negotiations to solve all outstanding problems between the two countries. President Clinton was clear in stressing the need for a comprehensive peace which certainly has to include Syria and Lebanon.

Propaganda and posturing apart, we hope that all people of goodwill, and there is no shortage of them around, will ultimately convince the Israeli leader that for peace to be attained concessions and sacrifices have to be made by all parties. Israel under Netanyahu, in particular, has some distance to cover in this context.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the United States, a writer for Al Ra'i said that the Likud leader aims at achieving two things: convince President Clinton of his ideas of fighting terrorism and seek the Zionist lobby's help to retain the present balance in relations between the United States and the Jewish state. Sultan Al Hattab said that Mr. Netanyahu and the Zionist lobby realise that Mr. Clinton is in need of the Jewish votes to support his election for a new term in office in November and therefore they are most likely to exercise pressure on the Clinton administration to adopt the Likud's views.

A WRITER for Al Doustur wished the Turkish Islamist prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, success in implementing his government's plans of improving relations with the Arab and Islamic countries and Arab rights in Jerusalem. Mohammad Kawash noted that Erbakan who won the leadership through the ballot has promised to improve ties with Syria and resolve the dispute over river water sharing; the Arabs sincerely hope that he will pursue this very logic, reasonable and wise approach in order to protect the interests of his country and respect those of Turkey's neighbours too.

The View from Academia

Our institutions and our quality personnel

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

MANY OF those in charge at various public institutions and establishments complain that the business they conduct is not being carried out to their liking because they do not have at their disposal enough qualified personnel to rely on. This is both true and false — more false than true, though.

I believe that we have to admit, on the one hand, that our public institutions and establishments, due to reasons which we well know, are packed with incompetent, inefficient, mediocre and non-committed individuals. This is a reality which many of those in charge are faced with when they take charge. We also have to admit that quality in our society at large is not to be found in abundance. So it is true that if I were in charge, I would have a hard time finding quality applicants to choose from. It may also be true that the authority or power of those in charge, when it comes to hiring, firing, reforming, shaping and reshaping those under them, is somewhat limited and restricted. I have heard it from many directors and heads of departments, hundreds of times: "I cannot fire even a secretary or a janitor." We understand.

The matter is not all that easy, however. Quality does exist in our society and it does find its way to our institutions. Our own universities, and those abroad, do provide us annually with exceptional, outstanding and excellent graduates in a variety of fields and disciplines. Many of them are ready to plunge immediately in the life of the institution and contribute effectively, and many are fast learners and easy to train. I would say that about 20 per cent of our university graduates are supremely well-rounded individuals and that another 20 per cent have the potential, with encouragement and guidance, to be so. Forty per cent is an excellent figure. So, where is the problem?

The way I see it, the problem is two-pronged. One has to do with the process of screening and selection. The situation may vary slightly from one establishment or institution to another, but the overall picture is essentially the same. When such establishments or institutions hire people, we do not get the impression, judging from what we see with our eyes and know for a fact, that they make it a point to hire quality applicants. For one thing, there are no

serious tests and interviews and there is no vigorous examination or perusal of the applicant's case history. The hiring process is in most cases routine, symbolic and exaggeratedly bureaucratic — i.e. it is extremely inefficient and indiscriminate. In some cases, those in charge bow (willingly or unwillingly) to pressures, favours and obliging gestures of sorts.

The other has to do with the fact that there is no search for quality. Most of those who hire sit in the comfort of their offices expecting quality to knock at the door and beg to be hired. Should not those in charge reach out, seek and search for quality? Why do we have to confine ourselves to ads and to the applications we receive? One often questions and doubts even the intention of our institutions to hire quality. We cannot talk about the need for quality in the absence of procedures tailored to spot and attract quality, seriously.

The second part of the problem is that when our institutions or establishments get qualified people, they do not know how to keep them. This is a big problem at our establishments today. Many of those quality graduates who happen to apply and are employed do not last long. They come full of enthusiasm and the desire to do things right. They have taken literally the ideals we have tried to communicate to them through our educational institutions, history books, novels, movies and the media, and come fully ready to work hard, do things right and excel. Slowly but steadily, and almost systematically, they find themselves being kicked with insupportable, unnecessary bureaucratic procedures, derision from their fellow employees, rude comments and insults from those in charge (who are complaining about the absence of quality people in their institutions). Bang, bang, bang, right under the belt, day after day. What do you do? Well, you do not have much to lose. You are young, idealistic, have guts, unmarried, many of your friends at other institutions are quitting, so, you quit. It would be interesting to conduct a study about how many of our quality graduates quit work the first few months or the first couple of years.

The failure then is essentially that of the institution itself, represented (of course) by those in charge, and not of soci-

ety, or of our individuals. It is they who fail to hire well and to keep those they hire well by chance.

What is to be done?

Well, three things. First of all, we have to take the act of hiring seriously — through real tests, real interviews, a careful perusal of educational and/or professional background. And we should learn to seek quality applicants, through the formation of search committees whose sole job is to headhunt, spot and attract excellent individuals or those who have the potential to excel.

Second, our institutions need to learn how to deal with quality employees. Such persons must be noticed, appreciated and fully encouraged and supported. Special attention is to be paid to the recently hired. Some serious orientation for them is needed. They need to be informed, through debate and dialogue, that the real world is somewhat different from what they have had in mind, and that it is through patience, hard work and effort they will have to put into the institution that the picture will improve. There is a battle to be fought, and they are to be the heroes.

Third, we need to choose carefully those who head our institutions or establishments and their various departments and sections. We need to have in charge people who know how to deal with their employees. I say to those who keep saying that they are unable to "fire a secretary or a janitor" that they miss the whole point. The question is not of firing, dismissing or punishing, but of seriousness in performance, firmness and justice in treatment, sensitivity to the feelings of others, diplomacy, inspiration by example. A boss who believes firing is the way, is like a father or a teacher who believes that reform can only be brought about through screaming, swearing, threats and physical punishment.

I do not know whether it was by chance or what, but last week I met five former students of mine (all of excellent calibre) who are dying to quit their jobs from institutions which look extremely attractive from the outside but hellish from the inside.

We have quality, folks, but let us learn how to spot it, attract it, nourish it and keep it.

Goals to make the common world more liveable

By J. Brian Atwood

WASHINGTON — At the recent annual meeting of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, in Paris, the world's donor nations adopted a far-reaching set of goals for the next two decades. If they are achieved, a world that is likely to have at least 2 billion more inhabitants by the year 2015 will be infinitely more liveable.

The world's development professionals based their ambitious objectives in part on the success of foreign aid over the past 50 years. If it was possible to expand the global economy tenfold, raise literacy rates by a third, create the "green revolution" to feed millions, double the percentage of people with access to clean drinking water, lower infant mortality by half and increase the average age of human beings from 44 years to 62, why not strive for similar improvements in the future?

The new goals link the economic and foreign policy interests of the industrial nations to the compelling needs of the developing world. They call for a one-half reduction in extreme poverty by increasing the living standards of the approximately 1.3 billion people who live on one dollar a day or less.

Universal primary school education, family planning services for all who want them, the empowerment of women through education and equal access to political and economic resources, and the implementation of strategies for environmental sustainability are goals previously adopted at U.N. conferences. Their realisation will dramatically increase the productive capacity of societies while preserving vital natural resources. This will in turn create new markets and contribute to global stability by preventing crisis.

"Increased prosperity in the developing countries demonstrably expands markets for the goods and services of the industrialised countries," the report asserts, with much supportive evidence. The new consumers are the middle classes of the emerging markets that benefited so much from the development efforts of the last generation. The question is whether anyone is our resource-strapped capital cities is listening.

It is not enough for

development ministers to agree on goals for the future. Executives, parliamentarians, journalists and citizens will have to focus more clearly on these issues as well. Budget battles and increased spending for crises have forced reductions of about eight per cent in worldwide official development assistance in each of the past two calendar years.

The United States, now in the midst of a tax far successful "structural adjustment" of its deficit-plagued economy, may be poised to shake off its donor fatigue. The U.S. deficit has been reduced by half, and at 2.3 per cent of GDP in 1995 is one of the lowest in the industrial world. The economy is growing steadily, inflation remains under control and employment is at an enviable 5.5 per cent. Equally important, Americans are beginning to realise that success in the international trade sector has helped produce this healthy state.

The trade sector accounts for only 26 per cent of U.S. GDP, but its size has doubled in a decade, with exports increasing rapidly and accounting for many of the new high-wage jobs in the U.S. economy. Businesses are anxious to exploit the dynamic markets of the developing world, where most of America's export growth is occurring.

At a time when international engagement through an effective foreign assistance programme could open doors and create demand for exports, the United States has reduced its programme significantly. In the last decade the U.S. development assistance budget has been cut by half, in real terms.

Two years ago America fell behind Japan as the world's largest donor in absolute terms. France and Germany are close to matching the total dollar amounts contributed by the United States, while they continue to contribute a significantly larger portion of their countries' overall GNP.

If America is to be successful in expanding its trade sector, it must expand its investment to develop new markets as it has done so well in the past 50 years. Japan and countries like France and Germany are to be commended for their commitment to global economic growth and stability, but they are also serving their national interests.

With the Marshall Plan,

the United States pioneered the notion that a nation could do well by doing

good: It is time again to put that principle into practice.

The writer is an administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

The ball in Israeli court

To the Editor:

As if by fate, accident or facts of history Benjamin Netanyahu is now the prime minister of Israel, for better or for worse.

We, in the Arab World, as well as all the peace-loving people of the world, are duly concerned. Benjamin Netanyahu comes to office rattling the four "nos": No to Jerusalem, no to a Palestinian state, no retreat from the Golan, no end to settler development. I believe that if Mr. Netanyahu had his wish, the peace process would collapse and with it the dreams of economic prosperity, political security and social stability for Arabs and Jews alike.

My own view is that the Netanyahu of Israel cannot hurt us anymore. We have reached the end of our tether. Suffering has become second nature to us. Plans to hurt us more will doubly damage Israeli hopes to live in peace and security with their neighbours.

The Arab leaders meeting in Cairo were quite right to issue words of caution about the election of Mr. Netanyahu. They were right in pointing out to the world that his actions would endanger peace, frustrate the effort towards normalisation and fatally wound the future. But Mr. Netanyahu is not all powerful, and the Israel he represents by a majority of one per cent is not beyond the damage that his repudiation of peace would cause.

In the message that should be served back to Netanyahu, we should opt to transform his four "Nos" into many "Yes" of sorts. We will say yes to peace, yes to the inalienable rights and dreams of the Palestinians to a state of their own, with Jerusalem as its capital, yes to a negotiated peace to evacuate the Golan Heights, yes to a negotiated peace to evacuate the occupied Lebanese territories. And we say yes to the end of nuclear threats and the cold war, yes to the future of peace in the Holy Land, even if Mr. Netanyahu and his cabal choose to be left behind.

We should also turn the tables on the Israel of Mr. Netanyahu. For many years now, it is we in the Arab World who have shown that we want peace. Our repeated efforts were called "confidence building measures." To start with, the Palestinians had to acknowledge Israel's existence. That was done. Then they had to agree to help protect Israel. That was also done. Then they had to agree to defer a final settlement of their claims, notwithstanding the international legality of the U.N. resolutions in their favour. Then the Palestinians had to acquiesce to their being characterised as being either/or displaced refugees, expatriates, personae non-grata and even prisoners of the Israeli authorities. Then they had to cross out the words in the covenant that threatened Israel. So that was done too.

It is time now that Mr. Netanyahu's Israel takes its own "confidence building measures."

Does Israel want peace? If peace is desired, then the new prime minister can show that by having direct talks with Yasser Arafat and all the other concerned Arab leaders.

Does Mr. Netanyahu believe in the economic prosperity of the region as a whole? If so, then Israel, which has \$15,000 per capita income, should be the one taking the lead with plans of economic cooperation and integration with its hard-pressed neighbours.

Does Mr. Netanyahu want to combat Islamic extremism? Then let him go to the world and procure funds for his new neighbours, to help them eradicate the hotbeds of illiteracy and poverty that breed hatred.

Does he really want to live in peace? Then we must tell him to declare peace openly, honestly, and for all the world to hear, without preconditions, qualifications or hesitation. Just as we have done.

Deep in their heart the Israeli people know that we are the injured party. And since suffering has become a second nature, it is not for us to be supplicants. Nor can we be called upon to assure others of our good intentions.

Now it is the time to stop worrying about what Mr. Netanyahu is going to do next.

If he chooses to lead his people against their will to the life of impunity, this is solely his choice, not ours, neither that of the world Jewry. And certainly not that of the peace-loving people of the world.

Since the leaders of the Arab World can do no more than what they have already done, the choice to be made and its accompanying price should be left on Mr. Netanyahu's shoulders.

Ludwig W. Tamari,
Amman.

Thanks for the thought

To the Editor:

HOW PLEASED I was to find "On record" has survived and Samer Ghalib Bagaeen has surfaced to fight again the McDonalds and Bold and Beautiful of this world; for change is inevitable and all we can do is try and make it better rather than otherwise.

His past efforts have not been wasted. He has brought pleasure to many people, as to myself. I am sure.

Living in Aqaba, may I also stand beside Alia Toukan, Dana Toukan and the Media Committee for the Protection of Our Cultural and Natural Heritage. Being a regular walker and swimmer along the south shore of Aqaba, meeting and talking to local and international visitors who praise its individual nature and antiquity, it would be sad indeed to see it turned into a concrete jungle.

I feel sure that if Samer Ghalib Bagaeen lived here, he would think the same.

Paul Saint,
48, Prince Mohammad Street,
P.O. Box 1370,
Aqaba.

Original is better

To the Editor:

The views of many columnists and writers in Jordanian newspapers are very important since they contribute to shaping public opinion and influence the decision-making process. That is when they are original and their own.

When, nevertheless, the writers turn into official spokespeople for this or that government establishment, they lose credibility and their readers' interest.

It is the journalists' right to express their views, but it is not their job to become mouthpieces for the government. The government can surely take care of its own media image, without their help.

Walid Said,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Calling

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French lea of love — 1

By Michael Thurston
Agence France Presse

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Friday, July 11-12, 1995
By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoub
personnel

Weekender



Jordan Times, Thursday, July 11, 1995 **A**

Society on the Move

Calling in the 'big guns' to discuss security, development

Some prominent Middle East experts gathered in Amman last week at the initiative of HRH Crown Prince Hassan to create a forum, or as the Crown Prince puts it "a commission of wise persons." The concept was in the making for several years and sprang from the Brandt Commission, named after former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt. So last week more than 30 scholars, industrialists, and political figures from Europe, the U.S., Israel, Egypt and Jordan got together in what is stressed as an informal setting at the Royal Court and formed Terra Media (middle ground) International Forum for Stability and Development. The forum has no formal structure in that officers have not been named, and ideas of where to base Terra Media are being bounced around. In addition, the forum membership will not be a strict membership per se, but rather encourage a fluid composition. The idea, says a source close to the organization of the forum, is to become informed and inform in a setting of experienced, sagacious, and concerned men and women, and thus hope for a rippling effect that would work towards a stable and developing Middle East and even beyond. The group wasted no time and began to delve into problems facing the Middle East. One topic of discussion was the confidence of the region in itself and the confidence of the international community in the region. Topping the list of those invited to participate was former U.S. Secretary of State and champion of "shuttle diplomacy" between Egypt and Israel, and Syria and Israel in the Nixon and Ford administrations Henry Kissinger. Other prominent figures involved in the discussions and presenting papers were former U.S. Assistant Secretary for International Security Policy at the Department of Defence Richard Perle, now resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, former Israeli Minister of Economics and Planning Yossi Beilin, Advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Dore Gold, Israeli Central Bank Governor Jacob Frenkel, Egyptian sociologist and Director of the Ibn Khaldoun Centre for Strategic Studies in Cairo Saadeddin Ibrahim, and from Jordan, former Minister of Finance Jawad Anani, former peace talks negotiator and water expert Munther Haddadin and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Michel Marto. The forum aims for a mix of academia and practical experience. Participants arrived at a general consensus that they would meet annually and resolved to follow a mechanism for dialogue on such subjects as the Conference for Security and Cooperation in the Middle East (CSCME), setting up an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-type institution for the Middle East, and extending inter-faith dialogue to encompass dialogues between cultures and followers of several different faiths.

not expected any time soon.

GUESS WHO GOT THE JOB? An appointment that came as somewhat of a surprise was that of former secretary to the Prime Minister Mahmoud Nouruddin as the new director of Al Hussein Youth City, succeeding Issam Arida who was appointed secretary general of the Ministry of Youth. Prior to his job at the prime ministry, Mr. Nouruddin served as director of the office of the Public Security Directorate chief. Former colleagues say he is an active fellow. That, we would have expected. Taking Mr. Nouruddin's place at the prime ministry is Manar Dabbas, a protocol officer seconded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Dabbas obtained a masters in international relations from the University of Jordan. He was actually scheduled to leave for an assignment in Geneva as the Jordan representative to various U.N. organisations there, but was plucked by the prime ministry in the nick of time. The 25-year-old Mr. Dabbas has been with the foreign ministry for four years since he graduated from university. He is now responsible for the hefty task of making the Prime Minister's appointments.

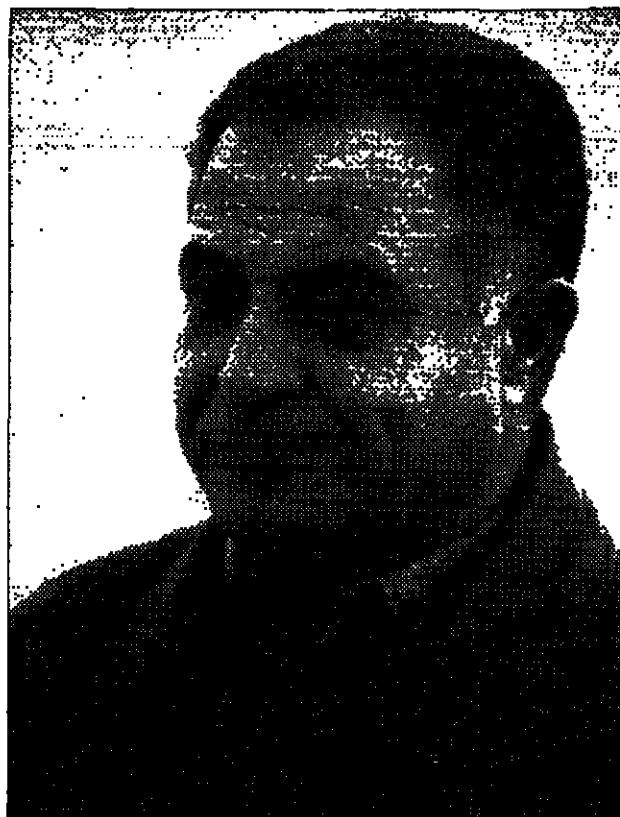
MONEY IS THE OBJECT: With JD 171 million in assets and JD 15.9 million in shareholders equity, the Arab Banking Corporation/Jordan (ABC/J) threw an outdoor bash for more than 1,500 of its clients and friends last week at its new headquarters. ABC/J came into being after it acquired the financially troubled Jordan Securities Corp. in 1990 whose majority share was then held by the Housing Bank. It was actually the first spread of ABC/Jahrain, the parent bank and the largest private bank in the Arab World, into the region. ABC/J Bahrain owns nearly 60 per cent of ABC/J. The new modern premises in Shmeisani, just a convenient five-minute stroll from the Housing Bank Complex, was opened for business at the end of May. As a commercial and investment bank, ABC/J is the first Jordanian bank to offer this form of combination services known in banking terms as "comprehensive banking." The Jordan institution is chaired by Abdul Wahab Al Tammar, who was once governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait. Its deputy chairman and general manager is Jawad Haddad, who was previously general manager of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank. ABC/J has 17 branches in Jordan, including the Greater Amman area, Irbid, Zarqa and Salt, and plans to open an Aqaba branch by year's end. ABC/J Bahrain has representative offices in Cairo, Casablanca, and Tripoli, a branch in Tunis and sister institutions and affiliates in London and Paris. The parent bank is also planning to branch into the West Bank, starting with Ramallah.

Information Marwan Muasher and several of his colleagues and tens more of public personalities and journalists. Meanwhile, if it were a case of adding fuel to the fire, you might wonder about a new weekly paper which has just sprung up. All we can tell you is that by the sound of its name, readers could be in for fervour of a sort. It has been dubbed *Abbed Rabbo* (Slave Of His Own God). The new weekly, is published in Arabic, by the Farid for Publishing.

FAR EAST EXPEDITION: Japan welcomed 10 young Jordanians who left Monday for Tokyo to participate in an international youth exchange programme. The four women and six men will join participants from 16 other countries including Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, South Africa and the U.S. The only other Arab country in this summer's programme is Egypt. According to the Japanese embassy in Amman, the participants will be joined by Japanese youth in various activities such as "industrial and cultural experiences" and stay with Japanese families. There is even a camping trip on the agenda. The ten participants from Jordan are: Yahyah Khawaldeh, head of the Directorate of Madaba Youth; Awn Arida, who just graduated University of Jordan with a degree in Agriculture; Mohammed Mahasneh, a law trainee; Ghassan Kassab, a graduate of Yarmouk University; Shadi Maqaddi, a student at Zeinana University; Yezan Abu Hassan, a student at Applied Sciences University; Manal Mdanat, a typist at the Ministry of Youth; Iman Asaf, a library attendant at Zarqa College; Maha Habashneh, a former swimming coach, and Maram Haddad, a student at Al Isra University. Before leaving on their long journey, the young folks met with Ambassador Takayuki Kimura who tipped them off on what and what not to expect.

SABAH AL KHEIR VIETNAM: No longer President of the Jordan Press Association, (JPA) Suleiman Qudah, chief editor of Al Rai Arabic daily, headed on his own Far East adventure in his capacity as president of the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ). He was invited by the IOJ to attend ceremonies on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the organisation. The event is being held in Hanoi. Departing right after the JPA elections, Mr. Qudah would not have known that following the elections, JPA members attempted to fax their colleagues to congratulate them on their win, only to find that the electricity at the press association's offices had been cut by the electricity company for non-payment of their energy bills.

LOOK TO THE GARDENS: If the summer has got you down you might consider keeping an eye out for public garden events planned by Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi. On his "entertain the community" agenda are three categories of happenings: concerts, mini-concerts, and children's plays. We missed the first concert last month, which drew about 700 people. While most attendees have been officially invited, the organisers are said to be comfortable with strollers-by entering the area and enjoying some evening-filled music. Tonight, for example, Dr. Abbadi has sent invitations to about 1,000 guests for a concert presented by



Mamdouh Abbadi

the Jordanian Armed Forces Band under the baton of Lieutenant Sabri Maa'ni. The conductor, you may recognise also as one of the musicians who accompanied Tunisian singer Sophia Saddek in the song "Ya Ibn Al Nebi," made popular when His Majesty King Hussein returned in 1992 to Jordan from successful surgery in the U.S. The concert will be held at the garden near Maydan Al Ameer Abdullah, behind the Prime Ministry in Jabal Amman. While Dr. Abbadi's invitation was co-sent with Mrs. Abbadi, we have since learned that she will not be able to make tonight's event. But many more are planned four weeks apart, plus the mini recitals and a children's play in two weeks at Prince Ali Theatre in Shmeisani.

N.B. The heat wave may well be blamed for a slip-up by a source at the Israeli embassy in Amman in last week's *Society on the Move*. "In introducing the embassy's first fully-fledged commercial attaché, Shaul Sasson, we were told that during part of the period preceding Mr. Sasson's appointment, Sami Ofri was in charge of commercial dealings on a part-time basis. We have since learned that it was Eynat Michael-Schlein who carried the load while conducting her own responsibilities as economic and political secretary. And in another item, published Tuesday in the Jordan Times and entitled "Israeli embassy to improve visa application process..." a statement that the embassy had moved its visa application section to the lower level of the Forte Grand nightclub. Jugglers, gave the management of the popular club the shivers. To put all fears to rest, Jugglers is still open for business. Why do you think they call it "nightclub?"

Jennifer Hamarneh

French learn language of love — from a book

By Michael Thurston
Agence France Presse

PARIS — The nervous young Frenchman sidles up to the cute American girl. "You're roller-blading like a goddess," he mumbles. "Do you have a boyfriend?"

"What a trite compliment. Everybody here knows how to rollerblade," comes the terse reply. "Anyway, I don't like men."

Or at least, that's how the dialogue might go if the couple have been reading a new book of international chat-up lines, aimed at French lovers seeking conquests in foreign parts.

Four Un Flirt details amorous gambits, translated into the local language, for Frenchmen travelling anywhere from New York to Budapest and London to Havana.

In fact America comes way down the list of destinations.

Recommended for would-be French Romeos, "Flirting in the U.S. will not be easy," it warns at the start of the chapter on the United States.

"You will have to have your wits about you constantly, and do everything to hide your natural machismo," it says.

For better prospects, Britain comes top of the league as a chat-up destination. "England is above all the flirting favourite for young Frenchmen," opine the authors.

"For generations they have been crossing the channel shouting: 'Let us at those little English girls!'"

In England the gambit must be much more understated. "Hello, how are you?" is the original recommended opener. "I'm French and I love England, even when it's rainy or foggy," continues the repartee.

With English girls, above all take things slowly. Then pounce. "Do you like English food," she asks politely over dinner. "I hate it," he groans. "So why have you come to

Great Britain?"

"To meet you."

The book, which so far only covers Europe and the Americas, offers strategies for love for countries from Albania to ex-Yugoslavia as well as the more obvious Italy and Greece.

In Tirana, hopeful lovers are reminded that they are in what was until recently "the last European bastion of di-hard communism... you will need tact, patience and time."

"If you can, try it on with a student rather than a traditional girl. And don't hesitate to beat a retreat if fathers and brothers start getting too close."

In Turkey the girls are "warm and curious about our customs... but don't kid yourself: They may enjoy talking but you'll need a lot of patience to win the jewels in the crown."

Cuban girls apparently hardly need any dialogue.

"Breathtakingly beautiful, they have rhythm in their skin and revolution in their head. Their heart is hot, even torrid."

Suggested initial chat-up lines in a Havana bar include "do you smoke after making love?"

One of the most hopeful destinations for globetrotting casanovas, the guide says, is ex-Yugoslavia.

"Hurry up, the girls are waiting for you!" it exhorts breathlessly. "For them you are the symbol of the return of peace. It's up to you to melt the snow."

The publishers of the French flirting bible are enthusiastic about their achievement. "Love has no barriers except those of language. They are now banished with this universal guide to flirting."

The rest of the world's women watch out: Editions covering the Middle East and Asia are planned later this year.

Beyond Polarisation

Islam and the Myth of Confrontation: Religion and Politics in the Middle East
By Fred Halliday
London: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 1996, 255 pages, £12.95

"THERE ARE no special nations, no eternal missions, no mysterious unknowable humans, no particular demons," says Fred Halliday in *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation* (p. 196). Thus, there is no intrinsic reason for "a clash of civilisations" — that inevitable confrontation between Islam and the West which has been postulated by Samuel Huntington, Western right-wing politicians and some Islamists as well. Instead, Halliday proposes to "go beyond this unnecessarily polarised and in some ways methodologically impoverished debate and continue with the job of studying these (Muslim) societies" (p. 217).

Halliday is professor of international relations at the London School of Economics. Having spent several decades researching and writing about the Middle East, he rejects the notion that the politics and behaviour of Muslim countries can be chiefly explained by reference to Islam as a religion. In terms of "Islam as a social and political system," he denies that this exists as a uniform bloc. Rather, the power structures and socio-economic realities of each country must be analysed.

The Middle East is not, as often claimed, a unique case, says Halliday, who stresses its parallels to other parts of the Third World. Considered an expert on Iran, Halliday compares the 1979 revolution there to other urban-based populist movements arising in the context of rapidly imposed socio-economic change — Peronism in Argentina, Getulism in Brazil and right-wing Hindu trends in India. The Iranian revolution "had an Islamic ideological character, yet it cannot be explained by Islam any more than an abstracted Christianity can explain the peas-

ant movements of Germany in the early sixteenth century." (p. 31).

By denying the singularity of the Middle East, the author sets himself apart from orientalist and Arab nationalists alike: "No one could be more 'orientalist' than the Arab nationalist vaunting the uniqueness and specificity of the 'Arabs', and arguing that the forms of oppression found elsewhere — based on class, gender or ethnicity — do not operate in the Arab World" (p. 13). Post-modernists and, to a lesser extent, Edward Said also draw criticism for their exclusive focus on the world of ideas, discourse, language and literature, which Halliday sees as "a flight from serious social analysis" (p. 207).

Most controversial for Jordanian readers may be the chapter on the Gulf War. Though assuming a neutral tone, Halliday actually justifies the attack on Iraq. He points out that the U.S. administration did some arm-twisting to amass the anti-Iraq coalition at the U.N., but generally presents its intentions as remarkably benign. At times, this flies in the face of facts, as when he discounts economic motives for the war, asserting: "There is little evidence that Washington gained anything, beyond the \$55 billion in cash to pay for the war itself..." (p. 80). Yet it is known that U.S. oil companies profited from the war; U.S. firms got the lion's share of the contracts for rebuilding Kuwait; and it was hoped that flagging arms industries would be revitalised as existing weapons stocks were deminished. The fact that the war did not resolve the U.S.' economic problems does not mean that it was not intended to do so.

Another chapter full of controversy is that on human rights and Islam, but in this case, Halliday's analysis merits serious consideration. He ascribes human rights violations in the Middle East to dictatorial states, rather than to any particular religion. Yet upholding human rights and democracy has cultural pre-requisites, involving respect for the indi-

BOOK REVIEW

vidual citizen, tolerance of dissent and a general respect for the rule of law.

These pre-requisites may be compromised by "authoritarian, patriarchal, obscurantist interpretations (of the Quran) that currently prevail..." (p. 156). In Halliday's view, efforts at modern, liberal interpretation of the Quran, while laudable, miss the point, for human rights can only be guaranteed by secularism-separation of religion from the state and coercion. Here his thoughts intersect with those of the Moroccan scholar and Muslim, Fatima Mernissi, who writes that "American secular humanism was developed not so much against religion as against state interference in religion and especially manipulation of it... Preaching tolerance and freedom of thought, secular humanism is an attack not on God but on government officialdom and a ban on its use of government funds and institutions to propagate religion, any religion" (Islam and Democracy, 1992, p. 45).

Sally Bland

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Culture is on the horns of this dilemma: If profound and noble it must remain rare, if common it must become mean.
— George Santayana, Spanish-born philosopher (1868-1952).

The art of life is to show your hand. There is no diplomacy like candor. You may lose by it now and then, but it will be a loss well-gained if you do. Nothing is so boring as having to keep up a deception.
— E. V. Lucas, English author and critic (1868-1938).

Art for art's sake

By Jean-Claude Elias

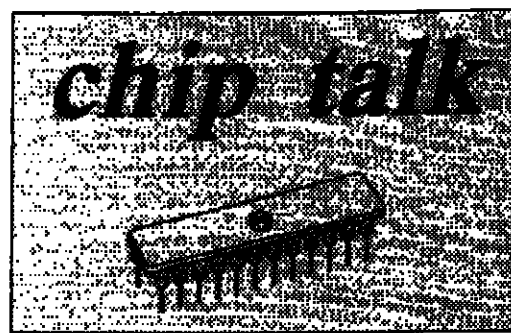
LAST WEEK this column got a certain amount of unfair competition from its own publisher. Indeed, two excellent cartoons, by Glasbergen (The Better Half) that appeared on July 2 and 8 in the 'Economy' page of this newspaper had the now famous Internet computer network for subject.

Being a positive mind I bravely discarded any thought of complaint to the Editor-in-Chief and decided to use them as a source of inspiration instead. In the first one the husband is bragging: "I'm taping a movie from cable, transferring it from my VCR to CD-ROM, uploading it to the Internet and E-mailing it to my brother so he can save \$2 at the video store." In the second one, the husband says: "I've got ten free hours to explore the Internet," and the wife replies: "Explain to me how \$3,000 worth of computer equipment equals 'free'..."

Cartoons, per se, do not require further explanations or comments. They would lose their impact. The very witty captions above however sent me wondering aren't we often reckless when we dive into technology? Don't we rush to do things forgetting to evaluate the eventual benefit versus the cost or the effort?

The answer is a big, giant yes. We know perfectly well that we can hardly refrain from trying, testing, experimenting and above all playing with new techniques. There's an uncontrollable drive that makes most of us absolutely want to use technology. The consequences? The profit? Who cares?

There could be several explanations to such behaviour. First of all new technology makes us feel we're moving forward — a wonderful feeling for any human being. There is also an obvious benefit for our ego. We do not have much opportunities (nor skills I believe) to tame wild horses anymore. But taming technology is second best. Also there could be, hidden somewhere in our conscience, the sentiment that by participating in the global trend, we may contribute even in microscopic amounts, to the



advancement of sciences. This too is a wonderful feeling. Whatever the reasons behind our attitude, we know we are doing the right thing. We may not be able to explain why we need a CD-ROM in our computer, but deep inside we know, we are sure that we do need it.

There is no arguing that by using new technology and getting familiar with it our awareness of it will increase. What good will this awareness actually do to us is another question.

If we accept to look at the Internet and related systems as an art, then there is no point asking why we are doing it. Art is for art's sake only. Copying a movie to CD-ROM and downloading it to someone by E-mail may be a form of modern expression. Saving \$2 surely cannot be the reason why someone would do that.

Computer users are spending a substantial part of their leisure time playing with the new communication possibilities that modern machines and networks provide. There must be a good reason for that. It is not money making, since the game is rather a money spending exercise.

The Internet and the CD-ROM may have given us a fantastic tool to communicate with text, sound and images with other people at the other end of the planet, while at the same time safeguarding our beloved privacy, at home or in the office, before our computer's screen. What kind of men will this make of us, our grandchildren may be able to tell.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

HOWLERS

PETER: (quickly): "Fingers."

FAILURES

— MAYBE he had the right aim in life, but he's sure run out of ammunition.

— HIS boss keeps telling him, "Your salary raise will become effective just as soon as you do."

— HE hatches a lot of ideas — the trouble is, he doesn't hitch them.

— He has always itched for success, but he's never been willing to scratch it.

— HIS motto is "All things come to him who waits." The big problem is he doesn't know what he's waiting for.

— He has always watched the clock, so he's still only one of the hands.

— AT 20 he knew nothing; at 40 he's done nothing; at 60 he'll have nothing.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

TELEGRAMS

** Warmest congratulations on graduation
Aharrut-tahani bita'kharrojjika.

** Pleased to hear of your promotion.
Enni s'eed be'an asma'a naba'a tarqiyatik.

** Happy birthday to you.
Atamanna laka eid milad sa'eed.

** Best wishes to you and bride.
Atyab at-tahani laka wa-le 'aroosik.

** Congratulations on your success.
Ohan 'ne'oka be'najahlk.

** Pleased to be among the first to congratulate you on your election
Yasorroni an akoonu baynal awal 'el allatheena yohan 'ne'oonaka bent'khabek.

** Congratulations on success of operation.
Ohani'oka benajah al-amaliya.

JOKES

* TOMMY was very inattentive. He looked round, turned from one side to the other and sometimes did not listen at all to his father's words. In the end his angry father cried out: "I think that everything I say to you goes in at one ear and out at the other."
Tommy thought a little and said, "Well, I think that's what I have got two ears for."

* LITTLE GIRL: "Grandpa, do you want me to give you a new cup for your birthday?"
GRANDFATHER: "That's very nice of you, my dear, but I have a cup already."
LITTLE GIRL: "I'm afraid you don't know, but you haven't any cup. Grandpa, I've just broken it!"

TEACHER: "If you stand with your back to the north and look to the south, what will be on your left hand?"

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

(1) Who sailed in the following ships? — Argo, Golden Hind, Beagle, Hampshire, Bounty, Endeavour, Mayflower, Fram, Revenge, Ark?

(2) What were the four voyages made by Gulliver?

(3) Under what circumstances is it not a crime to kill a man in England in peace time?

(4) Which of the following could properly be used for drawing nails out of wood? — hammer, pincers, pliers, screw-driver, bradawl.

(5) What was a buccaneer? What is the meaning of:
a) to maroon
b) to shanghai
c) to keel-haul
d) to walk the plank

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

HORSE — As a general guide:

A dream of seeing horses predicts a period of all-around ease. If your dream involved fear of the animal, it signifies worry over the loss of mis-placement of an important document or article of value.

To dream of riding (or sitting on) a horse indicates a coming rise in status, but if you were thrown (or fell off) you will have to cope with a rival who is to thwart you. To be kicked by a horse is a warning against complacency.

A dream of horses fighting in a fore-runner to disturbing news concerning a friend. To dream of a horse being shod is an omen of unexpected money. Cleaning or grooming a horse foretells a lucky speculation. Galloping or racing horses predict swift success.

Seeing a horseshoe in your dream is an omen of general good luck; finding one predicts wealth and/or success beyond your wild expectations!

PUZZLES

EIGHTS

FIFTEEN groups from which you have to make five 8-letter words. The difficulty is using the right groups in the right words and not having groups left which will not make a word. See how you manage.
In each instance the 2-letter group is the "sandwich."

(A) AGE BAD BAR BAT BE BIT CUE GE GIN GLY IN IN RED TE RLY

(B) BUN CH DO ERS ESS GL ING LIS MAR MAT NED NER PAR TE TR

(C) BUT CH COM ER ERS IR MU NAL NED PAT STA TED TO WAT WY

Wish you were here

By Samr Ghaleb Bagaeen

IT HAS BEEN quite awhile since there has been so much to do or even so much to hope to do in such a short-period of time.

What am I talking about? Well, let me tell you. Contrasting sharply with our own cities and our own way of life, there are certain cities in this world that never sleep. And quite frankly Madrid is one of these cities.

One reason for this is that because it can get so hot during the day, that the only time to get out and have some fun is during that time after sunset and before sunrise. This is the case in some other parts of Spain as well. And maybe, just maybe, this is why the afternoon siesta is such an important part of the Spanish way of life. For one thing, there is not much to do in the afternoon because everything comes to a halt. Other than that, the heat stops you from thinking about doing anything else.

And if going out at nights not your cup of tea, then you can choose anything from the tens of museums in the city, the expos, the concerts, be they jazz, classical or Flamenco or you can even go to the theatre. Some operas are also being staged but you do have to be quick to secure a ticket.

Besides all this, there are of course the flea markets and the book stalls where you can buy any book you want and at a price which best suits you.

You can also travel around Spain and visit Granada, Cordoba and Sevilla where you would be able to see for



yourself the heritage of your ancestors in this foreign land.

One thing though, all this is by no means intended to be an advertisement for Spain. What it should do though, is highlight the excitement that one can encounter in a place a few hours away from home.

It is away from home. Away from both friends and loved ones. But it is also about meeting people, learning new things and making new friends. It is also about learning to be tolerant and forgiving.

It can be, if you let go, about discovering who you really are and what you really want. This is because having been working for sometime, going back to being just a student studying a foreign language in a foreign country can help you learn more about yourself. It allows you to be both rebellious and daring.

Ay! This is where this has to end. Next stop Granada. Or was it Toledo?

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 11, 1996

3:00 Double Dragon
3:30 N.B.A.
4:00 Pirates
5:00 News Flash
5:01 French Programme — Les Polluados
5:30 Varieties — Le Monde Est A Vous
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Documentary
8:00 Taratata
9:10 Star Trek
10:00 News In English
10:25 Feature Film — The Diamond Fleece
Starring: Ben Cross & Tony Rosata
Family Aspects

Monday, July 15, 1996

3:00 Bonkers
3:30 Richie Rich
3:45 Play About
4:10 Olympia
5:00 News Flash
5:01 French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
5:15 Family Programme — L'Ecole Des Fans
6:00 Magazine — Thalassa
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine — Science — Cinq Sur Cinq
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Milner Fenwick
8:00 Paul McKenna Show
8:30 Mat Lock
9:10 100 years of Capitalism in Korea
10:00 News In English
10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
11:15 Mancuso FBI

Friday, July 12, 1996

3:00 Dumb & Dumber
3:15 Bush School
4:00 Gillette World Sport
4:10 Crystal Maze
5:00 News Flash
5:01 French Programme — Les Polluados
5:30 Film — Pasteur, Cinq Amies De Rage
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine — All La Terre
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Growing Pains
8:00 Nasty Boys
8:45 Secret Weapons
9:10 The Wanderer
10:00 News In English
10:25 Classic Movie — Blindfold
Starring: Rock Hudson & Clodia Cardinale

Saturday, July 13, 1996

3:00 Moomin
3:30 Pumpkin Patch
3:40 Big Brother Jake
4:10 Olympia
5:00 News Flash
5:01 French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
5:15 Document — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30 Game Show
6:00 Serie — Chateau Vallon
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Tolkien's
8:00 Album Show
8:55 Miami Vice
9:30 Prism
10:00 News In English
10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
11:10 Feature Film — Foul Play
Starring: Chevy Chase & Dudley Moore

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

3:00 Iris The Happy Professor
3:15 Captain Planet
3:30 Hot Shorts
4:10 Olympia
5:00 News Flash
5:01 French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
5:15 Document — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30 Game Show
6:00 Medical Magazine — Savoir Plus Sante
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Blossom
8:00 Documentary
8:30 Encounter
9:10 Star Trek
10:00 News In English
10:30 Human Target
11:15 Hawaii Five-O
12:45 My Two Wives

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

3:00 Flint Stones
3:30 Iris
3:45 Bill Nye The Science Guy
4:10 Olympia
5:00 News Flash
5:01 French Programmes — Les Polluados
5:30 Serie — Simenon
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Evening Shade
8:00 Super Stars Of Action
8:30 Chancer
9:10 Hunter
10:00 News In English
10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
11:15 Bugs

Sunday, July 14, 1996

3:00 The Mask
3:30 Bush School
3:40 Mac & Mudey
4:10 Olympia
5:00 News Flash
5:01 French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
5:15 Document — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30 Game Show
6:00 Magazine — Envoye Special
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine — Sports et Musique
7:30 News headlines
7:35 Cinema, Cinema
8:00 The American Chart Show
8:45 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
9:10 Black's Magic
10:00 News In English
10:25 Guitar Legends
11:15 Short Story Cinema
11:45 Nelson's Column

By Mahmoud I. Murti

IT HAS NOT often been the case that appropriate tribute has been paid to Arab women in the region. Nor, in that matter, ample recognition of their pioneering contribution to modern abstract art.

Attempting to initiate a gradual remedy of this situation, the Baladna Museum and Gallery for Women and Children, in a joint project with the Ministry of Culture, is currently hosting a major collective exhibition of Arab women artists. Gallery director, Samr Ghaleb Bagaeen, said: "The gallery is pleased to have a group of Arab women artists from various countries who have provided us with a rich and diverse collection of works."

The exhibition, which will be held from July 15 to August 1, is a joint project of the Baladna Museum and Gallery for Women and Children, in a joint project with the Ministry of Culture, is currently hosting a major collective exhibition of Arab women artists.

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The exhibition, which will be held from July 15 to August 1

A tribute to Arab women artists 10 Arab women artists hold collective exhibition

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

IT HAS NOT often been the case that appropriate tribute has been paid to Arab women artists in the region, nor for that matter, ample recognition of their pioneering contribution to modern abstract art.

Attempting to initiate a gradual remedy of this situation, the Baladna Forum and Gallery for Arts, a non-profit organization, is currently hosting a major collective exhibition of Arab women artists. Gallery director, Suad Issawi Hourani, explains: "The gathering of 25 plastic artists from 10 Arab countries will certainly provide us with a formula for dialogue among [women] artists who have proven their presence in their national arenas and often on inter-Arab and international levels, but they have seldom merged together in one exhibition."

This gathering will provide the opportunity to highlight diversity and richness of the world of Arab women plastic artists. It also brings to the surface the sources of inspiration, the multifaceted cultural and national symbols, and the individual differences that exist in the products of the participants. The gathering will perhaps

reveal the common fabric of the different art works in the various Arab countries and the individual uniqueness of each."

Representing Jordan are Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Mona Saudi, Hind Nasser, Samia Taqtaq Zaru, Ghadah Dahdaleh, Alla Ammoura, Asma Fayoumi and Najwa Annab. Palestine is represented by Tamam Aref Al-Akhal and Samia Halaby.

Iraq is represented by Iman Ali Khaled, Widad Orfaly, and Wasma Shourbaji; Egypt by Reem Hassan, Sana Mahmoud, Evelyn Ashmallah, Jazibiyeh Sirri, Shalabiyeh Ibrahim; Syria by Hala Mahayni, Lujainah Al-Assil, and Laila Nusair; Kuwait by Sorayya Al Baqsmi, Saudi Arabia by Munirah Mousali, Sudan by Kamala Ibrahim; and Oman by Nadirah Mahmoud.

The diversity in the nationalities of the artists is intended to "transcend the local level to the vaster Arab sphere, so as to build further bridges of cooperation and interaction among the various branches of contemporary Arab plastic art," adds the director.

Most of the artists listed have exhibited extensively, locally, regionally and internationally, in both

solo and group exhibitions. Together, they cover various schools of modern art, such as impressionism, expressionism, surrealism, pure abstract, minimalism, the naive-style, installations, and modern sculpture.

The viewer to the exhibit encounters styles so diverse, that it is hard to imagine that all the works belong, nonetheless, to the same broad category of "Plastic Art."

A painting by Widad Orfaly, using only blue colour of varying shades, depicts a highly ornate city built around a water-bay. Almost every single building is identical to the other; only the proportions differ. Upon closer scrutiny, the buildings are all domed or have pointed turrets. The upper sky itself is even rendered in the same style; it is comprised of an endless profusion of inverted miniature buildings. Palm trees of every size and persuasion abound, which, coupled with the distinct domed buildings, lends the city a Middle Eastern character of an extremely exaggerated nature. Clearly, such a depiction belongs most typically in a very grandiose and romantic dream that can only be dreamt by someone of the stature of Shihrezade.

Moving on to one of Asma Fayoumi's works, a depiction of a dainty melancholy lady holding a highly

translucent head-scarf set against a background of giant orange and violet lilies, the overall atmosphere is reminiscent of Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid's painting "Divine Protection," especially in the great exaggeration of the size and positioning of the eyes.

Tamam Al-Akhal, wife of prominent Palestinian artist Ismail Shamout, displays a surrealistic painting of a family hugging passionately at the steps of a handsome home overlooking the sea. The tight embrace seems to be one between a mother, father and baby, though it is hard to construe whether this is symbolic of a reunion or a farewell (prior to separation). It could be either, since the main theme of the vast majority of Ms. Akhal's works (as well as those of her husband) is well known for its focus and artistic documentation of the four-decade plight and suffering of the Palestinian people, in the context of which, forced separations of families are just as commonplace as daily encounters that one just takes for granted.

Ghadah Dahdaleh presents an eight-piece set of her very well-known series "Doors and Windows." This collection represents the third generation of works of this particular theme, each time reinvented and reworked to maintain stylis-

tic freshness while retaining the basic, highly original design-ingredients and features that have made these works extremely popular in Jordan and abroad. True enough to the series-title, the necessary inspiration came from the rusty and haggard doors and windows of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, such as the congested and run-down Baqa'a and Wihdat Camps. Interestingly, however, most people who are unfamiliar with the factual background surrounding these works, as well as the theme, tend to associate the general colour-schemes with those of Latin America, specifically of the ancient Aztec, Inca and Mayan cultures. Infinite shades and hues of Sienna-brown, yellow-ochre, cadmium-red and thalo-green figure prominently in the paintings and contribute decisively to the latter effect.

Mona Saudi's multi-talents include sculpture-works of a calibre and quality that can reasonably and convincingly be likened to that of Henry Moore. She is also an accomplished painter and philosophically-inclined poet. Additionally, she is an artistic eccentric who often uses regular coffee in her drawings, paintings and sketches, adorned by her own poetry, rendered in bold calligraphy, though she also has no qualms

about incorporating poems by one of her favourite poets, Adonis.

Ms. Saudi's works, both sculptures and drawings, are at their absolute best when combined together in one exhibition, acting to augment each other visually, aesthetically, as well as philosophically. Her sculptures employ materials as exquisite and expensive as the finest Italian marbles, though she takes distinct pride in her selection and crafting of local quarry-rocks and marble. She imbues her work with a quality that could almost plausibly lead the viewer to seriously speculate whether she had used a smooth, curvaceous spoon to achieve those gentle lines rather than a chisel and hammer.

Egyptian artist Evelyn Ashmallah's works resonate heavily with the Salvador Dali school of eccentric surrealism, as evidenced in her portrayal of eyes, tongues, noses and hitherto unregistered creatures floating about on the canvas.

The above are just some of the examples of works on display, though it should be noted that their inclusion and mention in detail should not be interpreted to mean that they are in any way superior to those that have not been mentioned — or delved-into in-depth — within the confines of this text.

The exhibition included



A painting by Iraqi artist Widad Orfaly currently on display at Baladna Gallery

several key lectures, discussion panels and press conferences, engaging artists, intellectuals, art-critics, poets, and interested laymen in the deliberation. Accounts of early art activities in Jordan, Palestine and parts of the Arab World were presented by each of artists Mr. Rafik Laham, Samia Zaru, Tamam Al-Akhal, Abdul Ra'ouf Shamoun, among others.

Ulluminating the philosophy behind the exhibition, Mrs. Suad Hourani said: "In this sense, the Amman First Gathering of Arab Women Plastic Artists is not merely an 'event', or a mere accu-

mulation of scattered art works that are being put together into one exhibition. Furthermore, the other activities of the gathering are not a transient get-together prompted by the event. The exhibition and the other parallel cultural activities represent for us a new vision and dynamism and a proposed mechanism to continue for the purpose of enhancing the dialogue and constantly exchanging the expertise, experiences, ideas and thoughts."

The exhibition, which was opened on June 17 by Her Majesty Queen Noor, closes on the evening of July 16.

WEEKLY PREVIEW
Monday, July 15, 1996

Monday, July 16, 1996



Puppeteer Andras Lenart of the Hungarian State Puppet Theatre holds a marionette of King Lear in the theatre's workshop. The 17th World Puppet Festival held in Budapest brought together almost 500 puppeteers from 47 countries. The week-long jamboree offered over 70 performances in five different theatres (Reuter photo)

Marionettes prepare comeback at World Puppet Festival

By Duncan Shiels
Reuter

BUDAPEST — Andras Lenart is a man with a mission — to win people back from video and TV to what he calls the magical world of the marionette.

Standing in his workshop in Hungary's State Puppet Theatre amid lavishly dressed dolls ranging from Petrushka to King Lear, Lenart insisted the world of marionettes will again have its day.

"Puppet theatre, I know, has a future," he said. "People are getting saturated with Disney-type TV and film. They need hand-made entertainment which gets them away from sanitised, mass-produced imagery."

Judging from the public response to the 17th World Puppet Festival which has just brought together in Budapest almost 500 puppeteers from 47 countries, Lenart may have a point.

An estimated 1,000 glove puppets, from Japanese glove dolls to life-size marionettes from Spain took over the Hungarian capital last week, enchanting packed houses in the seven-day festival organised by the French-based UNIMA, the International Union of Puppeteers.

"This is the first international festival which has had any effect on the city," said theatre critic Krisztina Galgoczi.

"Something happened which I've never experienced in the cultural festivals. There were so many companies and venues, everyone seemed to be getting involved."

The festival, which took place in puppet theatres and workshops along Budapest's majestic Andrássy Boulevard, was designed to demonstrate that there was more to puppet theatre than Punch and Judy and the Muppets.

"Puppet theatre is not necessarily children's theatre, it is just a different theatrical language," said Waldemar Wolanski, director of the Arlekin Theatre of Lodz in Poland.

Arlekin's two-hour version of carmen stunned audiences with its erotic mix of puppets and actors playing out an original version of Merimee's tale of love, death and betrayal.

Carmen is a ravishingly beautiful puppet. Actor Marek Chronowski narrates the story through the eyes of her jealous lover Jose, then picks up the strings of Jose the marionette to act out the story with the other dolls.

Masked actors make up the chorus.

"The critics are adults, the newspapers belong to adults. If we want to create an opinion about puppet theatre we must also play to adults," said Wolanski, who directed Carmen.

He said using puppets with the actors added a new dimension to the story.

"Puppets bring the play to another level. For example, when a real actor is stabbed to death everybody knows it's a trick. When the puppet is stabbed and the puppeteer lets the doll fall the audience believes it's the end of the puppet's life. Somehow it's much more cruel and real for the audience."

However, the increasing trend to mix actors with puppets does not go down well with everyone.

"There's a tendency more and more for puppeteers to act as actors and for me it's the wrong way," said Hans Wirth, one half of the Berne-based Puppenbühne theatre, which staged a highly acclaimed piece using a dozen different figures to the music of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana.

"Puppeteers should trust the power of the puppets," he said. "A puppet can fly, it can break into pieces and reassemble itself. Its power

also lies in the fact that it doesn't have an individual history. That is its strength."

Dezso Szilagyi, the Hungarian organiser of the four-yearly festival, who was director of the Hungarian State Puppet Theatre for 30 years, says the appeal of marionettes to Central Europeans lies in identifying with the puppet rather than the master.

"A marionette's movements are entirely controlled by a greater power, which people can interpret as God, the state or whatever. That has a lot of appeal."

Puppets are divided as to what makes a good exponent of the art. For Russian one-man show Nikolai Zykov it is a combination of things. "A good puppeteer must not only be a good craftsman, he must be an artist like a painter, he must understand colours and forms, but most of all he must have a musical soul."

Wirth agrees that the appeal of working in puppetry is the mastering of so many different skills, from carpentry to script writing but for him the essential quality is simple.

"A good puppet master must love his puppets," he said.

Bob Dylan's son has blooming musical career

By Dean Goodman
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Continuing in the family business has not been an easy job for Jakob Dylan.

Along with having to fend off questions about his world-famous father, Bob Dylan, he faces the daily grind of being just another struggling musician in Los Angeles.

Dylan's band, The Wallflowers, have just released their second album, 3-1/2 years after their last release. Several members fell by the wayside and then, after the new album was completed, its release was delayed by seven months because of record company politics.

"I think that being a group for seven years, it's unfortunate to have 24 songs available," Dylan, 26, said in an interview at his manager's office. "I think there should be more. I think it's great to have a great catalogue of songs."

Indeed The Wallflowers' sound owes much to artists with impressive catalogues, such as Tom Petty, John Hiatt and Leonard Cohen. But arguably, no living musician has a stronger catalogue than the father in question, Bob Dylan, the 1960s rock music icon who at his son's age had seven albums under his belt.

But questions about his family ties are coolly received as Dylan seeks to carve out his own identity as a singer/songwriter rather than as the youngest son of one of the most influential figures in rock'n'roll.

"I'm just interested in playing and writing songs and doing it," says Dylan, who also plays rhythm guitar. "I'm not interested in really talking about that subject. That becomes talked about too much. At that point the music just becomes totally unimportant."

Nonetheless, it's hard to ignore the similar facial features, occasional rambling speech patterns and self-effacing, dry wit. But unlike his father, Dylan shies away from political issues, saying no one wants to hear the views of some musician who hasn't sold any records.

All that could change if the new Wallflowers album, Bringing Down The Horse

(Interscope), catches the fancy of record-buyers. Like the self-titled debut, it's heavy on the warm sounds of a Hammond B-3 organ and Dylan's husky vocals. Guests this time included Tom Petty's guitarist Mike Campbell, ex-Jayhawk Gary Louris and Adam Duritz of Counting Crows (which had a hit song that included the line "I wanna be Bob Dylan").

Its style is at odds with the current hard-charging hit bands like Metallica and Soundgarden. Dylan's not averse to the modern and album rock genres, but finds a lot of it oppressive. "Sometimes you do want to hear more than complaints, y'know? There's a lot of complaining going on, people are pretty miserable it sounds like."

But he wryly adds: "It does sell, I guess. I'm trying

to get miserable." Dylan always wanted to be a musician and with the exception of brief stints delivering Chinese food and nabbing shoplifters, he has stuck to his plan. "I always thought groups were like small gangs. I thought they were pretty cool when I was growing up."

He formed The Wallflowers with friends when he was 19 and they often jammed at Los Angeles' landmark Canter's Deli where insomniac rockers are served by elderly waitresses in pink dresses. The band's name comes from an obscure Bob Dylan song from 1971.

Dylan and keyboardist Rami Jaffe are the only surviving members from the first album, which received glowing reviews but suffered from lack of support

and an executive shuffle at Virgin Records.

The new album marks the first release by Interscope since MCA bought the 50 per cent stake previously held by Time Warner. Political and shareholder pressure forced Time Warner to sell its profitable stake because Interscope handled controversial acts like Snoop Doggy Dogg and Nine Inch Nails.

Although the album's first single, 6th Ave. Heartache is getting support from the VH1 cable channel and Adult-Alternative Radio as the band prepares a concert tour of the U.S., Dylan's not holding his breath about matching the sales of those artists.

"No one's going to hate selling a few million records, but how many people get to. It's not really a healthy dream I don't think."



Members of Jakob Dylan's band Wallflowers are shown in a recent publicity photo. Shown (left-right) are Michael Ward, Mario Calire, Greg Richling, Jakob Dylan and Rami Jaffe (seated). Dylan is the son of legendary singer Bob Dylan (Reuter photo)

Monday, July 17, 1996

Arthritis research — Britain's role

By John Newell

"BRITAIN should be proud and immensely grateful for the achievements of arthritis research over the last 60 years. They are bringing direct benefits to sufferers throughout the world." So said Paul Dieppe, Professor of Rheumatology and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bristol, in a recent review of research into arthritis in progress in the United Kingdom commissioned by the British charity the Arthritis Research Council (ARC), which supports much of the research in the U.K.

The ARC believes the review shows that Britain leads the world in terms of arthritis research. Professor Dieppe lays special emphasis on exciting new British work on enzyme inhibitors and monoclonal antibodies being developed to control the causes of rheumatoid arthritis.

He says that researchers are sometimes criticised for having failed to find "the cure" after 60 years of research supported by the ARC. But while it remains true that many forms of arthritis are still incurable, they are no longer untreatable. The improvements in the care and likely outcome for most people with arthritis have been spectacular, and research has led to genuine optimism that more cures will soon be forthcoming.

We now know that there are 200 different types of arthritis.

They have been defined through painstaking observational research.

"The importance of this cannot be overestimated," says Professor Dieppe. "We can only begin to find the causes and cures if we first understand the different types of disease that we are dealing with."

One way to discover the

cause of disease is to document the frequency and distribution of the different forms in which it occurs. This is known as epidemiology.

"ARC had the foresight to set up an arthritis epidemiology research unit, in Manchester, many years ago," says Professor Dieppe.

Different Forms

The length of time for which this unit has been collecting data has enabled it to collect some extremely valuable information about the distribution of different forms of arthritis, which has given valuable clues to their causes.

Another form of social rather than laboratory research into arthritis which has been largely pioneered in the U.K. has been research into arthritis which has been largely pioneered in the U.K. has been research into the impact of the disease on society.

"We can now provide our politicians and health leaders with well-documented evidence that arthritis is one of the most important health problems in our society, that it is growing in significance as the population ages, and that it is a huge cost burden to the country. We have also collected sobering data about the numbers of people in pain or disabled," says Professor Dieppe.

This sort of data is of value far beyond the U.K., since although the details are different, the social changes and problems brought about by ageing populations are being felt in many ageing populations.

Growing Cost

The huge and growing cost burden of arthritis revealed by British surveys provide the springboard and justification

for other surveys in other countries, as well as providing valuable predictions to help in deciding national caring and research budgets and priorities.

For some common forms of arthritis, including gout and some occupational forms of osteoarthritis, research has already revealed the causes, along with ways of life or procedures which can help to avoid the development of disease.

Gout is now safely controllable using allopurinol. For other forms of arthritis, research to identify causes continues. "We have 200 different joints in our bodies," says Professor Dieppe, which are constantly in use for over 70 years, far longer than any machine. As well as asking why they go wrong, we need to ask what normally maintains them in reasonably good condition, in spite of treatment that would wear out any machine.

The answers to these questions are valuable in more than one direction. On the one hand discovering the body's normal repair and maintenance mechanisms gives hope of becoming able to stimulate them artificially when they fail to work properly in arthritis. On the other hand studying the properties of living joints can provide lessons for the designers of mechanical joints of all kinds, as well as for those bioengineers who are specifically concerned with the design of artificial joints, such as hip joints, to replace natural joints that have finally worn out.

Tissue Repair

Two natural processes are crucial to maintaining the normal integrity of our joints: inflammation and tissue repair. It is now clear, thanks largely to British research at cen-

tres such as the Kennedy Arthritis Research Centre and the Postgraduate Medical School in the Hammersmith Hospital in London, that the key mechanisms of rheumatoid and osteoarthritis are abnormalities of inflammatory and repair processes respectively.

Inflammation is the main means used to get rid of microbes and foreign bodies that may enter the joints. It is probably normally crucial to joint health. But in rheumatoid arthritis the process gets out of hand. "Great strides have been made" says Professor Dieppe. "In our understanding of this process, leading to new strategies in controlling it."

It is also worth mentioning that parts of the sequence of events by which inflammation causes damage in rheumatoid arthritis appear to be identical to those by which similar processes cause damage in other auto-immune diseases, including multiple sclerosis and forms of diabetes and thyroid disease. Thus research on, and even perhaps treatments developed for one of these conditions may prove valuable and effective for others.

Similarly the roughening and pitting of cartilage found in osteoarthritis is normally prevented by repair mechanisms which fail in the disease condition. Over the last few years research, much of it carried out by Professor Dieppe himself, has led to exciting new ideas about how we might restore normal repair mechanisms in joints, and stimulate cartilage to heal better.

Genetic Factors

British groups were among the first to link specific genes to susceptibility to forms of arthritis (ankylosing spondyli-

Research into AIDS vaccine languishes

By Cynthia Osterman
Reuter

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The best hope of conquering AIDS lies in the development of a vaccine, but governments and drug companies are virtually ignoring this critical area of research, scientists said.

After more than a decade of AIDS research, no vaccine has advanced to large-scale trials in humans and researchers believe the introduction of a vaccine is at least five years away and probably longer at the current pace of study.

"It is a joke," said Donald Francis, a pioneer in AIDS virology at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and now president of Genovax Inc. which is working on a vaccine.

"There is only one way you are going to stop this virus and that's with a vaccine. We need to do more," he said.

Prospects for a vaccine is being hotly debated at the 11th International Conference on AIDS which starts Sunday in Vancouver. A new global effort to promote research into an AIDS vaccine will be launched Sunday in Vancouver with backing from the United Nations and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Every day about 8,500 people worldwide are infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS. Experts say prevention efforts like safe-sex education campaigns are worthwhile but are not enough to halt the spread.

Vaccines, which produce immunity to a disease and have eradicated smallpox and made

strides toward eliminating polio in recent decades, offer the best hope of a solution.

"In the long run if we are going to have a substantial impact on the (AIDS) epidemic we have to look to...vaccines," said researcher David Ho of New York's Aaron Diamond Centre. "Science in this area is not progressing very rapidly. We have nothing to speak of today that could be used widely."

Researchers blame slow progress so far in AIDS vaccines on a shortage of funding and hesitancy among drug companies. They say drug companies see uncertain profit prospects and potentially large liabilities if vaccines do not work. They also cite a lack of government leadership.

Some experimental vaccines have shown promise in tests on monkeys or trials with relatively small groups of people, but governments and most big drug companies have been slow to move forward.

"The need for a vaccine has never been greater, but...it doesn't seem to be a global priority," said New York AIDS activist David Gold.

In the United States, vaccine study received less than eight per cent of the \$1.4 billion spent by the National Institutes of Health last year on AIDS research, said Dr. Margaret Johnston, scientific director of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. "We think an effective vaccine is achievable but the pace is going to have to be accelerated."

Disappointment about the lack of progress in vaccines contrasts with

the current general mood of optimism over breakthroughs in AIDS treatment. New drugs introduced in recent months have shown remarkable success in reducing the amount of HIV virus in the blood to undetectable levels.

But even if these advances ultimately lead to a cure for AIDS, the cost of such therapies at \$12,000 to \$16,000 a year will be out of reach for most of the world's population, particularly victims in the Third World. If developed, a vaccine would likely cost just a few dollars a person.

Researchers estimate about 25 experimental vaccines are being investigated. Work so far has focused almost exclusively on the strains of the HIV virus that are prevalent in developed countries rather than those spreading rapidly in Asia and Africa where a vaccine is desperately needed.

Genovax hopes to begin large-scale human trials next year on a vaccine called GP120 based on a genetically engineered piece of the outer surface of the HIV virus. A vaccine by Pasteur Merieux of France, a unit of Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Inc., based on the canarypox virus is among those showing promise and researchers hope it will be ready for large-scale human tests in 1998.

Other approaches include using vaccine combinations, chemically inactivated HIV, HIV genetic coding and live altered HIV.

Feature AIDS in U.N.

A decade has passed since the first AIDS case was detected in Jordan and the spread of the disease continues to alarm levels in other countries. Figures reported by the Ministry of Health to date show there has been only 133 reported cases of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) in Jordan, a number which has risen to 20-25 in 1996.

The socio-economic situation in the Kingdom, the Jordanian government is increasingly concerned with the rising number of Jordanian workers returning from abroad and the impact of the disease on the country. This, coupled with the steady increase in the number of cases, has led to a growing concern among the public. The Jordanian government has been working to raise awareness of the disease and to provide support for those affected. The Jordanian government has also been working to improve the health care system and to provide access to antiretroviral therapy for those who need it. The Jordanian government has also been working to improve the living conditions of the poor and to provide access to education and employment opportunities for all Jordanians.

Robert Mahoney
Reuter

Mohammed Al-Sakan, 18, is the son of a Palestinian refugee in Jordan. He is a student at a school in Amman. He is a very bright student and is very popular among his friends. He is a very kind and helpful person. He is a very brave and courageous person. He is a very loyal and devoted person. He is a very honest and trustworthy person. He is a very hardworking and determined person. He is a very ambitious and successful person. He is a very confident and self-assured person. He is a very intelligent and knowledgeable person. He is a very creative and innovative person. He is a very energetic and enthusiastic person. He is a very friendly and approachable person. He is a very respectful and courteous person. He is a very polite and well-mannered person. He is a very clean and tidy person. He is a very healthy and fit person. He is a very happy and content person. He is a very successful and accomplished person. He is a very respected and admired person. 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U.N. World Population Day focuses on AIDS and reproductive health

will increase, but to what extent we don't know since we are unable to reach the high-risk groups," says Dr. Asad. Forming an NGO for AIDS would help surmount many of the obstacles that government workers face in reaching out to AIDS victims at the grassroots level, believes Dr. Asad. But even social workers are shying away from the idea because of the stigma associated with it. In the meantime, the clock continues to tick.

More than 100 delegates
attend a meeting room at
Vancouver Trade and Con-
ventions Center, a city that
has killed nearly 6 million
people from AIDS (Reuter photo)

pie may not tolerate the use of the word "condom", so it is substituted with a more suitable phrase like "precautionary products found in pharmacies". Close cooperation with religious authorities has also helped ensure that the message against AIDS is disseminated in a conscientious and

easier without the Israeli army. Some of Gaza city's drab streets have been spruced up. The beach, off limits during the occupation, is open and restaurants have sprung up along the Mediterranean shore. But

"In the past I could find casual work, odd jobs," Mr. Sakan said. "Now we have no income and prices have gone up. A bushel of rice costs 100 yen."

gone up...A sack of flour used to cost 53 shekels now it's 97 shekels."

With such immediate worries Mr. Sakam does not want to think of the brighter future Oslo was supposed

But what would he say to Mr. Arafat if he met him? "I would just ask him to come here to see how we live."

[illegible]

But on the dormant Syrian negotiating track, Mr. Netanyahu is insisting on a virtual halt to attacks by Lebanon-based Hizbollah guerrillas on Israel before considering a deal with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Overall, White House spokesman Mike McCurry described the president as delighted with the results of the talks.

Play One

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Foreign workers in Lebanon total 1.25 million—Arab League

BEIRUT (AFP) — There are 1.25 million foreign workers in Lebanon out of a total population of 3.5 million and many of them pay no taxes, an Arab League official said Tuesday.

Bakr Rassul, who heads the Arab League's employment organisation, said the Arab World and Lebanon in particular were experiencing an influx of foreign workers "because nationals refuse to carry out certain jobs."

Speaking after meeting Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz, Mr. Rassul said research by the Arab League showed unemployment in the Arab World had reached 12 million.

He insisted there were no "shameful jobs," and that "everybody should roll up their sleeves to participate in the building of their country."

Mr. Rassul said cheap

labour came into Lebanon notably from Syria which is the main foreign power broker in the country wracked by civil war between 1975 and 1990.

He added that Syrian, Egyptian and Asian workers formed a pool of cheap labour which provided strong competition to the Lebanese workforce in terms of pay and conditions.

Many of the foreign workers find unofficial temporary employment on building sites or as seasonal agricultural workers, and they do not pay taxes, he said.

Meanwhile, international confidence in Lebanon's economic recovery remains unshaken by Israel's 17-day war on Hezbollah and the election of the new rightwing Israeli government.

"The macro-economic

indicators show that the dynamics of reconstruction, and the economic restructuring, sensitive to political variations, are continuing and have not been affected by the Israeli aggression in April or the election of Benjamin Netanyahu," Riad Salame, the governor of the central bank told AFP.

The two events "have so far had no impact on the movement of capital transfers to Lebanon as the May balance of payments was in excess of \$60 million."

"Arab countries have voiced alarm at Mr. Netanyahu's May 29 election as Israeli prime minister fearing he is planning to rewrite the terms of the Middle East peace process with a hardline refusal to trade land for peace."

But Mr. Salame said investors were well aware of the political and eco-

nomics risks which they "take into account in their feasibility studies."

"In the last three years \$15 billion have been transferred to Lebanon and the commercial banks have tripled their assets to \$19 billion by the end of April."

The first issuing of a Eurobond abroad by a Lebanese company Credit Libanais in June — which followed a state issue of Eurobonds — were "undeniable signs of confidence" as were loans from Japan worth \$120 million as well as \$40 million from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to help rebuild Lebanon.

Lebanon, which is still trying to rebuild after its 15-year civil war ended in 1990, was further ravaged in April when Israel launched attacks on Iranian-backed guerrillas in the south.

Sudan closes private money exchanges

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan's finance minister ordered an indefinite closure of private money changers Tuesday, 10 months after they were allowed to operate parallel to the state-owned banks, the state news agency SUNA said.

Abdul Wahab Osman ordered exchange offices to "suspend all activities pending further notice," SUNA reported.

The government will conduct a "full revision of regulations concerning private exchanges" in order to "plug loopholes and protect the national economy from subversion," Mr. Osman said. After the new rules are passed, private exchanges will be allowed to reopen after their owners commit to "strictly abide by the regulations," the minister said.

The government allowed private exchanges in September last year in a bid to shut down the black market in currencies, but the move failed to stop the plunging value of the Sudanese pound.

The pound, which last year sold at 600 to the dollar on the black market, now goes at over 1,600 to the dollar on the black market and 1,500 in private exchanges.

State-run banks have tried to keep up with private exchanges, currently selling the dollar for 1,400 pounds.

In past weeks, the government has tried to rein in the rate by banning commercial transactions in foreign currencies.

IMF chief tells African leaders to rule well for economic growth

LYAOUNDE (AFP) — The head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) told African leaders here Tuesday that their continent had made significant strides in recent years and encouraged them to continue with restructuring and ensure better management of Africa's resources.

Michel Camdessus, the IMF director-general told reporters that he had advised the 31 heads of state and government attending the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit here, to realise the potential of growth that lay on the continent.

Mr. Camdessus stressed that good governance coupled with better management of resources, restructuring of public finance systems to remove unproductive expenditure as well as the continuation of structural adjustment programmes, was certain to ensure positive growth.

"I am totally confident of the performance of a new democratic continent," said

the IMF chief after holding talks with the leaders gathered here for the annual 32nd OAU summit.

Asked about the response of African leaders to his talk, Mr. Camdessus said: "I had the impression that they were listening not only with courtesy but with attention, and they were generous with their applause."

Mr. Camdessus was upbeat that Africa was poised for positive economic growth in coming years.

"I am confident there is a possibility of success...because we are observing that things are moving, things are changing," he said, but stressed that these changes would not apply to states at war or in some form of political struggle.

He said 40 African countries presently posted positive per capita growth compared to only 20 five years ago.

He predicted an average continental economic growth of about five per cent or more this year com-

pared to just one per cent five years back.

For the success of the programmes, Mr. Camdessus urged cooperation from the rich nations of the world.

He called on the industrialised countries to make a significant effort and to "have a special responsibility to promote world economic growth and stability by adjusting their own structures and cooperating among themselves to minimise potential sources of instability."

The world had to open its markets to products from Africa, while creditors had to show their commitment to the reform programme by reversing the declining trend in official development assistance (ODA).

"The lamentable experiences of the past two years during which ODA has fallen at a time when there have been 'peace dividends' must be offset," he said.

Thirty one of Africa's 53 countries are currently undergoing

reforms, on the continent where 33 of the world's least developed countries are located.

He called on the bilateral creditors to ensure that necessary resources were rapidly provided so long as they were within the framework of comprehensive programmes of macro-economic stabilisation and structural reform.

On debt, Africa's perennial burden which is expected to reach \$320 billion by the end of this year, Mr. Camdessus was opposed to its total cancellation, but rather preferred reduction to bearable levels.

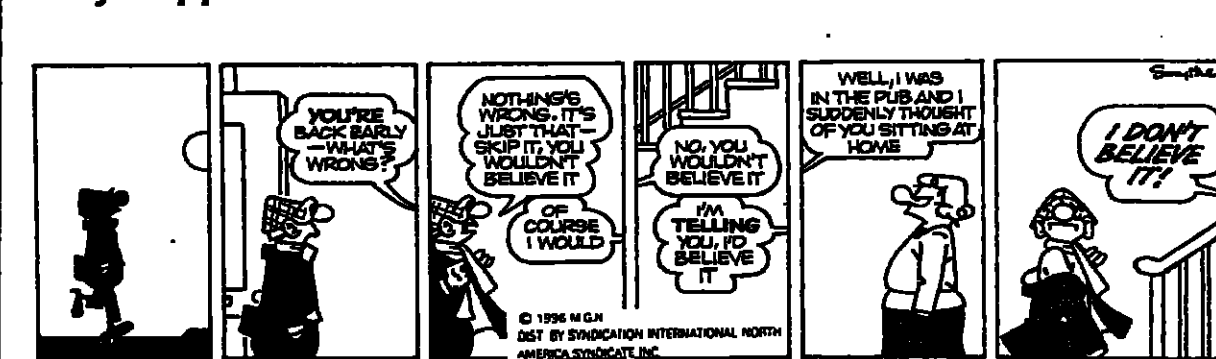
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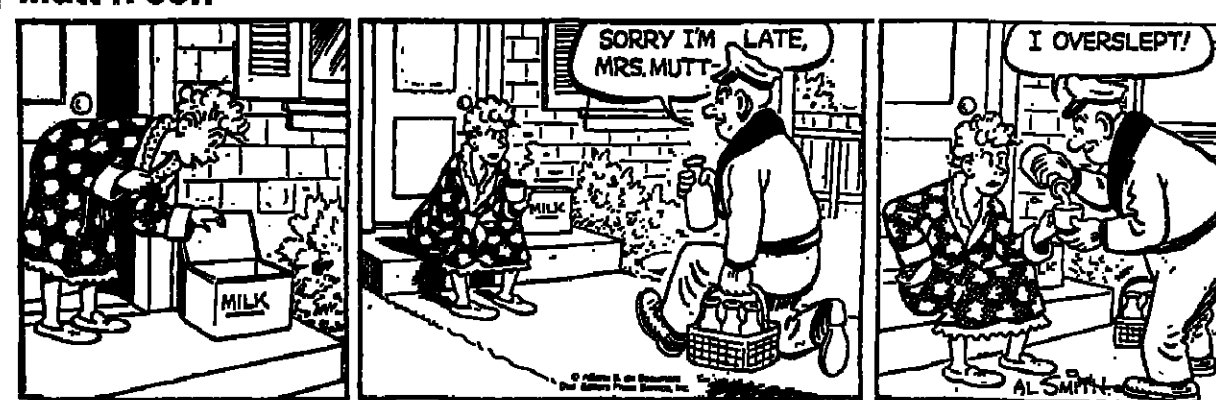
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 12, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Handle those errands and letters, reports, etc. today which can bring greater success in the days ahead. Complete projects already started and you will gain the recognition of some bigwig who has noticed your efforts.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Plan how to handle your responsibilities in the morning today. Make collections and receive money owed to you which has been difficult before this time to place in your financial accounts for the lean times.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get busy early today solving perplexing concerns and don't run off on any irrelevant courses of action. Discuss with fellow associates how they have tried to help you with some career difficulties at this time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Early today get into matters which have taken much time in previous days and wind them up with much success. Handle career activities you promised your mate later this evening to accomplish and thereby show your affection.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have been labouring on gaining personal aims, and today you can complete the career activities necessary to gain the right results. Later this evening you can spend some time with your loved ones and relax at home.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study worldly affairs you have been handling today and they are soon completed and behind you. Complete some agreements you have made with a bigwig and show that you possess the integrity which will be noticed.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) You have been contending with an entirely new set of circumstances and today you will be able to proceed at full speed towards achieving your goals. This evening will be good for spending time with your loved ones.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have many conditions to improve today and in the days ahead, so get an early start on them and plan your course of action to take advantage of every possible benefit. Tonight, you can meet with close friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You may have to assert yourself somewhat today if your fellow associates expect too much from you just because you have the ability to get some important project completed in an efficient manner which will get recognition.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Get the loose ends of present activities tied up today and you get fine results. Avoid overly critical with fellow associates and you will discover that you will receive much better results in the days ahead.

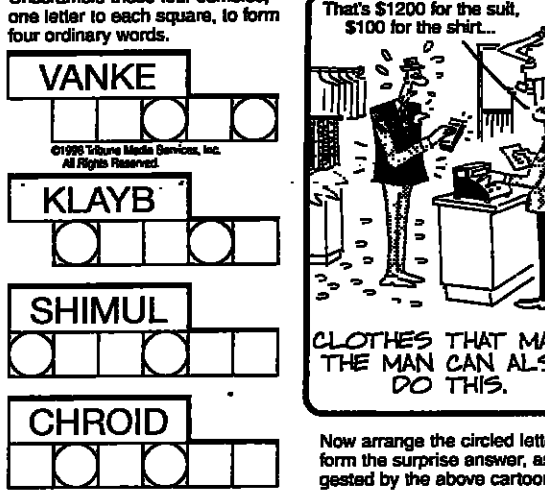
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Put the finishing touches on that plan for recreation today and later this evening all will go smoothly with your loved ones and close friends and everyone will be pleased with the results which have materialised.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get at the small duties around the house which you have neglected for sometime so that you can make everything more harmonious in that important realm of your life with your mate and your other loved ones.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

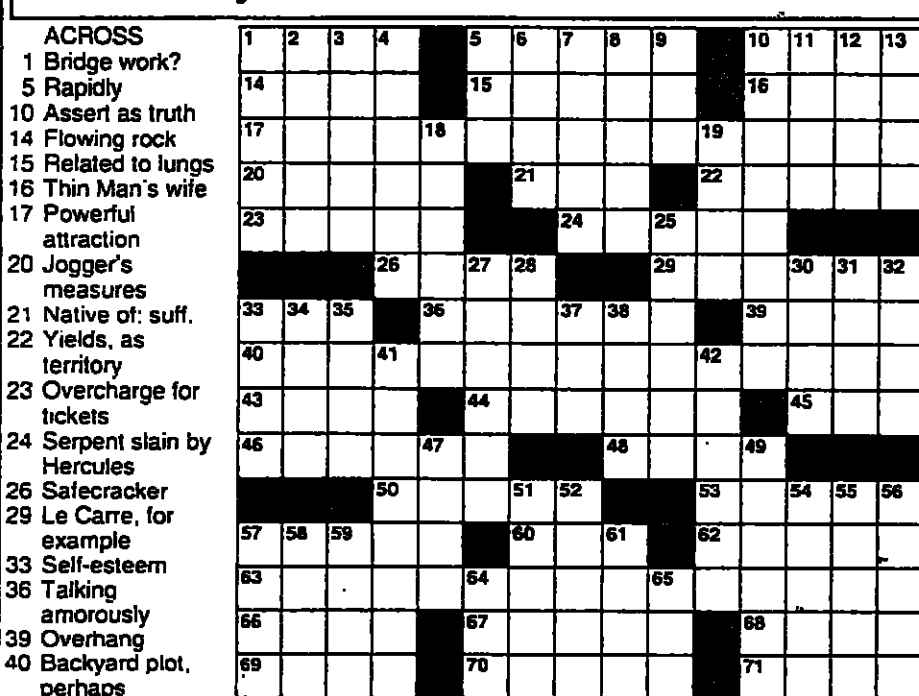


Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: CREEK DITTY MYRIAD ADDUCE

Answer: A hair stylist's daily routine is this — CUT AND DRIED

THE Daily Crossword by Alan Olschwang



- ACROSS
- Bridge work?
 - Rapidly
 - Assert as truth
 - Flowing rock
 - Related to lungs
 - Thin Man's wife
 - Powerful attraction
 - Jogger's measures
 - Native of. suff.
 - Yields, as territory
 - Overcharge for tickets
 - Serpent slain by Hercules
 - Safecracker
 - Le Carre, for example
 - Self-esteem
 - Talking amorously
 - Overhang
 - Backyard plot, perhaps
 - Heraldic border
 - Kind of engine
 - Remnant
 - Come out
 - Waste allowance
 - acid (disinfectant)
 - Basil sauce
 - Without help
 - Jones
 - Author Alan
 - Geologist's concern
 - Singer Ed
 - Tractor man
 - Fencer's implement
 - Towel word
 - German city
 - Remainder
- DOWN
- Hits hard
 - Uncontrolled fear
 - Spanish town
 - To wit
 - Everything
 - Apple, e.g.
 - Embarrass
 - Shrewd and careful
 - Sea eagle
 - Aardvark
 - Empty
 - Gaelic
 - Butters
 - Side
 - Beige
 - Dirk
 - Egged on
 - Asian desert
 - Inclination from vertical
 - Pizza parlor fixture
 - Tear
 - Old Greek revelry exclamation
 - Microbe
 - Give the eye
 - du Diable
 - Egg holder
 - Spooky state
 - Syrian metropolis
 - He gets around
 - Puzzling problem
 - Loafs
 - Ciphers
 - Mushroom stem
 - Carries
 - Beginning
 - Indian nursemaid
 - nobby
 - Doozie
 - Existed
 - Cooling quaff
 - Sty

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 11, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make your plans early today for handling property affairs, then follow through with enthusiasm and make a success of them. Later this evening you can spend some time with your loved ones and a pleasant time with them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) You need to progress more quickly today so early plan how best to gain your aims. Get in touch with good friends this evening who can be of great benefit to your career success and make suggestions for the days ahead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Confer with a bigwig early today and plan how to gain more abundance the days ahead, then don't go off any unrelated career activities which will not conclude with the success which you desire.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A close friend gives you a new avenue today to gain the assistance of a fellow associate, so try it for better results. This evening will be good for you to be romantic with your mate and show your affection for him or her.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Discuss your ambitious ideas with an expert today, then get to operate on them with enthusiasm and then you make big progress towards achieving your goals. This evening should be spent with fellow associates on some special project.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Permit a powerful fellow associate to open a new door of opportunity today, even if you have to entertain this person for it. This evening can be spent with close friends whom you have not seen for sometime and have a good time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Impress an influential person with your career activities today and you will get the assistance you need in monetary matters. This evening you can spend some time with an expert who has suggestions for some new project you have.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Meet with a powerful fellow associate at some new place today where you can plan the days ahead more intelligently. Tonight, you can have a pleasant time with your loved ones in some special activities you like.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be helpful to your loved ones today and make your home life more harmonious. Study property affairs well later tonight and you will discover how to make your residence more affordable and comfortable.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) You are good at organising today, so do this in recreational activities, also. Visit good friends in the evening and you can have some fun with them and have get much accomplished with some bigwig who can make good suggestions.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your home is an important place in your life today, so improve the conditions there quickly. Be sure that your loved ones agree with the changes you have made with your residence so to avoid any disagreements.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your judgement is fine today, so communicate with others as much as you can and get good results towards you gaining the success which you desire. Later this evening will be fine for seeing some close friends.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Interbank overnight rate drops to 4.75%

By Samir Ghawi, Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Interbank overnight rate stood at around 4.75 per cent Wednesday, easing slightly from the five per cent rate charged yesterday between the banks in the Kingdom, a reliable banking source told the Jordan Times.

The overnight rate was as high as 10.5 per cent last week and has gradually declined over the past few days, the source said.

He explained that the rate eased last week as a result of the withdrawal of funds by the Palestinian Monetary Authority.

The Monetary Authority, which is estimated to have withdrawn about \$100 million, represented the volume of funds between the banks for overnight lending, the source said.

The withdrawal caused a shortage of liquidity and a rate soared to 10.5 per cent.

Such a source indicated, the banks approached the Central Bank for a repurchase of their holdings of certificates of deposits to ensure the necessary liquidity. This move made funds available and secured the return to the overnight rate of around five per cent.

Another banking source said that the Central Bank was indirectly influencing interest rates by its issuance of certificates of deposits and that this policy has shifted funds from the stock exchange to the banking system.

Investors can earn risk-free higher return on deposits. Another source of funds to the banks is the transfer of foreign currencies into Jordanian banks as the Central Bank is keeping a high edge over interest rates offered on the dollar and other currencies.

It is not yet clear at what rate and by how much the Central Bank will be offering its new certificates of deposit this week, but the source does not believe the interest rates in the market will change.

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Interbank overnight rate drops to 4.75%

By Samir Ghawi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Interbank overnight rate stood at around 4.75 per cent Wednesday, easing slightly from the five per cent rate charged Tuesday between the banks in the Kingdom, a reliable banking source told the Jordan Times.

The overnight rate was as high as 10.5 per cent last week and has gradually declined over the past few days, the source said. He explained that the rate surged last week as a result of the withdrawal of funds by the Palestinian Monetary Authority. As the amount, estimated at about JD60 million, represented the same volume of funds that was moving between the banks for overnight lending, the withdrawal caused a shortage of liquidity and the rate soared to 10.5 per cent.

As such, the source indicated, the banks approached the Central Bank for a repurchase of their holdings of certificates of deposits to secure the necessary liquidity. This move made funds available and ensured the return to the normal overnight rate of around five per cent.

Another banking source said that the Central Bank was indirectly influencing interest rates by its issuance of certificates of deposits and that this policy has shifted funds from the stock exchange to the banking system where investors can obtain risk-free higher return on deposits.

Another source of funds to the banks is the transfer of foreign currencies into Jordanian dinars as the Central Bank is keeping a higher edge over interest rates offered on the dollar and other currencies.

It is not yet clear at what rate and by how much the Central Bank will be offering its new certificates of deposit next week, but the sources do not believe that the interest rates in the market will change.

Top Arab shipping firm back in the black

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The biggest joint shipping venture in the Arab World climbed back into profit in 1995 after accumulating losses of more than \$100 million in the previous three years, results have showed.

The United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) made a net profit of \$87.14 million in 1995, one of the highest incomes since it was launched by six regional governments in 1976, according to its balance sheet. The report did not give a reason for the profits but company sources in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) attributed it to global economic growth.

"Higher growth in the world economy boosted shipping business in general. Naturally we benefited from such an upturn," one

source said.

An earlier economic worldwide slump combined with growing competition in the oil-rich region to keep UASC in the red for three years forcing it to introduce austerity measures to safeguard development plans. The Kuwait-based UASC suffered from a net loss of \$17.2 million in 1994, around \$73.1 million in 1993 and \$33 million in 1992.

In 1991, it reported high net profits of nearly \$60 million as the company monopolised services in the region after international shipping firms were scared off during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

Company officials said the recovery in 1995 and expected good results in 1996 would encourage UASC to press ahead with

expansion plans.

They include operating new lines and purchasing 10 new container ships to serve the Far East, Europe and the Middle East.

The ships will replace the existing fleet of 13 vessels, plying those routes.

The new ships, which will boost UASC's fleet to more than 40 vessels, will cost around \$900 million and have a capacity of between 3,500 and 4,000 containers each, according to the UASC office in the UAE.

UASC is the biggest joint Arab shipping company and its activities cover mostly Gulf states and their main economic partners, the United States, the European Union, Japan and its Asian neighbours. It decided to boost its fleet to face a surge in demand due to an

increase in imports by Arab Gulf states, the biggest consumer market in the Middle East. Their annual purchases exceed \$50 billion per year.

The balance sheet, distributed in the UAE, showed UASC rebounded into profits although operation costs increased to \$563.8 million in 1995 from around \$542.6 million in 1994.

But earnings from shipping operations surged to \$643.9 million from \$557 million. The income from interest also jumped to \$33.5 million from \$22.1 million while that from investment portfolios stood at \$18.9 million compared with a loss of \$3.3 million.

The report showed the company's paid up capital stood at \$991.2 million at the end of 1995.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607178											
QUOTED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 10/07/1996											
PRICE	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	11.7	1.64	6	480	102745	213.50	214.00	0.50	+
3.900	3.150	BANK OF JORDAN	11.0	0.00	1	1450	4423	3.15	3.05	-0.10	-
2.700	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. CO.	4.9	0.00	3	2450	3094	2.12	2.24	0.12	+
3.040	2.600	JOR. KINATY BANK	15.5	0.00	7	1330	3336	2.71	2.71	0.00	0
1.370	1.000	JOR. GULF BANK	5.5	0.00	12	9900	9096	0.91	0.92	0.01	+
4.180	3.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	16.9	0.00	20	7023	24938	3.87	3.52	-0.35	-
3.800	3.350	ROYAL AL-BAY (JORDAN)	7.8	0.00	1	800	1370	2.38	2.34	-0.04	-
1.130	0.710	ARAB BANK DEV.	5	0.00	30	50300	16421	0.71	0.71	0.00	0
1.740	1.000	PALESTINE INV. CO.	5	0.00	20	44800	49306	1.06	1.06	0.00	0
BANK AMMAN TOTALS INDEX: 168.46 %CHG: +0.09 100 119133 214816											
4.410	4.000	JERUSALEM BANK	11.7	0.00	2	417	1793	4.30	4.30	0.00	0
2.910	2.150	JOR. FARMER BANK	6.1	0.00	4	1280	2486	2.15	2.15	0.00	0
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 129.49 %CHG: 0.00 6 1567 4481											
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC CO.	10.2	0.00	28	14300	24355	1.47	1.47	0.00	0
2.300	1.080	REAL ESTATE DEV. CO.	9	0.00	9	2450	2724	1.10	1.12	0.02	+
1.180	0.900	REAL ESTATE INV.	20.7	0.00	4	7000	6510	0.93	0.93	0.00	0
2.480	1.780	MID. EAST BOTTLERS	80.6	0.00	2	1000	1870	1.77	1.87	0.10	+
3.660	3.090	ARAB DEV. INV. CO.	12.7	0.00	30	7100	22568	3.12	3.21	0.09	+
2.460	1.700	UNIFIED CO.	9.4	0.00	25	7700	13779	1.75	1.78	0.03	+
1.200	0.820	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	4	850	775	0.90	0.92	0.02	+
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.07 %CHG: +0.15 43 43416 72627											
33.080	18.950	JOR. TOBACCO & CIG.	19.5	3.11	2	42	1034	23.00	24.15	1.15	+
3.810	3.050	JOR. CEMENT CO.	17.7	3.38	18	3181	8973	3.08	3.09	0.01	+
3.350	2.750	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	30.2	0.00	10	1019	2041	2.75	2.81	0.06	+
5.960	4.750	ARAB POTASH CO.	19.4	3.92	5	400	2040	5.18	5.10	-0.08	-
10.560	7.720	JOR. PHOSPHATE INDUST.	8.3	3.07	13	591	3212	8.77	8.82	0.05	+
8.180	6.420	JOR. WOODEN MILLS	0.3	0.00	7	5115	31177	6.42	6.46	0.04	+
5.300	3.100	ARAB PHARM. CO.	17.5	0.00	32	8809	28162	3.16	3.18	0.02	+
2.630	1.400	RAVIA INDUSTRIES	0	0.00	2	250	362	1.44	1.49	0.05	+
8.780	4.390	TRANS JORDAN TRV. CO.	12.0	0.00	2	650	2660	4.40	4.40	0.00	0
5.800	3.130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	0	12.70	2	150	471	3.13	3.18	0.05	+
7.40	4.80	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0	0.00	62	123950	56123	4.8	4.8	0.00	0
1.500	1.050	ARAB PAPER COV. IND.	7.4	0.00	17	8160	5712	1.09	1.09	0.00	0
2.720	1.210	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	5	0.00	1	100	135	1.21	1.35	0.14	+
2.210	0.660	NATIONAL IND.	5	0.00	16	4950	4479	0.67	0.67	0.00	0
2.310	1.060	INTEGRATED PETRO. CHEM.	0	0.00	87	20000	23106	1.11	1.16	0.05	+
1.650	0.410	JOR. STEEL CO.	0	0.00	9	2450	2208	1.09	1.04	-0.05	-
2.280	1.080	ARAB PHARM. CO.	24.2	0.00	7	2400	3095	1.05	1.05	0.00	0
3.450	1.760	UNIV. MOON IND.	5.5	11.05	48	26000	47186	1.80	1.81	0.01	+
2.470	1.140	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	15.4	0.00	87	31050	26027	1.19	1.23	0.04	+
1.300	0.950	JOR. NEW CHEM. CO.	26.4	0.00	38	12000	11782	0.98	0.98	0.00	0
2.450	1.750	AL-SAY READY WEAR	0	0.00	6	858	939	1.78	1.79	0.01	+
1.490	1.090	IND. TOBACCO	26.6	0.00	6	1900	2167	1.12	1.13	0.01	+
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 104.05 %CHG: 0.00 418 242806 268271											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 136.06 %CHG: +0.06 607 406021 560794											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 10/07/1996											
0.820	0.630	JOR. TRADE FAC.	17.3	0.00	4	4300	2468	0.64	0.66	0.02	+
0.980	0.700	RAVIA COMM. CENTERS	0	0.00	1	100	69	0.73	0.79	0.06	+
1.000	0.700	UNION INV. CO.	69.8	0.00	11	8830	3835	0.72	0.74	0.02	+
1.220	0.830	ARAB FVN. INVEST.	0	0.00	11	3950	2114	0.83	0.85	0.02	+
1.380	1.070	UNIV. MOON IND.	5	0.00	1	50	109	1.09	1.04	-0.05	-
1.000	0.810	ARAB FOOD & MED.	0	0.00	4	550	292	0.82	0.83	0.01	+
1.870	1.370	RAVIA. COLONIES	0	0.00	7	3657	6119	1.38	1.40	0.02	+
1.780	0.820	ARAB TRV. CO.	0	0.00	2	580	580	0.82	0.82	0.00	0
1.100	0.680	RAVIA. HULL. INC. HANCO	0	0.00	6	3280	2080	0.63	0.63	0.00	0
1.080	0.770	JORDAN STEEL	0	0.00	10	18428	12168	0.77	0.77	0.00	0
1.900	0.890	SCHEARS PRIME 75%	0	0.00	2	6180	2376	0.82	0.82	0.00	0
0.980	0.680	RAVIA PRIME. CO.	0	0.00	1	90	90	0.68	0.68	0.00	0
0.910	0.480	IND. SNG.	27.7	0.00	16	32780	14829	0.48	0.48	0.00	0
1.520	0.770	IND. CERAMIC	0	0.00	6	2850	2184	0.77	0.78	0.01	+
1.020	0.640	PRIME SNG. P. COV.	0	0.00	2	1300	818	0.64	0.64	0.00	0
1.500	0.930	MID. EAST COMPLEX	6.6	0.00	36	237280	131335	0.93	0.93	0.00	0
0.580	0.530	MID. EAST CON. ACTION	6.3	0.00	6	46850	25299	0.54	0.54	0.00	0
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 125 337645 203679											

DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

25,000 persons apply for 88 vacancies at Ministry of Health

A COMMITTEE formed by the minister of health is currently studying 25,000 employment applications to fill 88 vacancies in the fourth grade. A source at the ministry said the committee's task aims at selecting 40 servants, 20 guards, 15 telephone operators, eight housekeepers and five seamstresses without being subjected to various pressures to appoint certain people. "The committee has no power to appoint anyone as it will only make recommendation to the decision-makers to fill the vacancies according to the bases adopted by the Civil Service Commission," the source said. The committee is expected to finish its work within a month (Al Ra'i).

Saudi team begins recruiting Jordanian teachers

A SAUDI team, which arrived in Amman last week to recruit a number of Jordanian teachers to work in Saudi Arabia, has started accepting employment applications and conducting interviews. The team is expected to recruit about 2,000 teachers

to work in Saudi schools, said Suleiman Al Zaydi, the head of the employment committees. He added that another committee will arrive Thursday or Friday to recruit teachers to work at teachers' colleges in Saudi Arabia. Recruitment will also be opened to attract Jordanians qualified for special teaching of handicapped, Mr. Zaydi said (Al Ra'i).

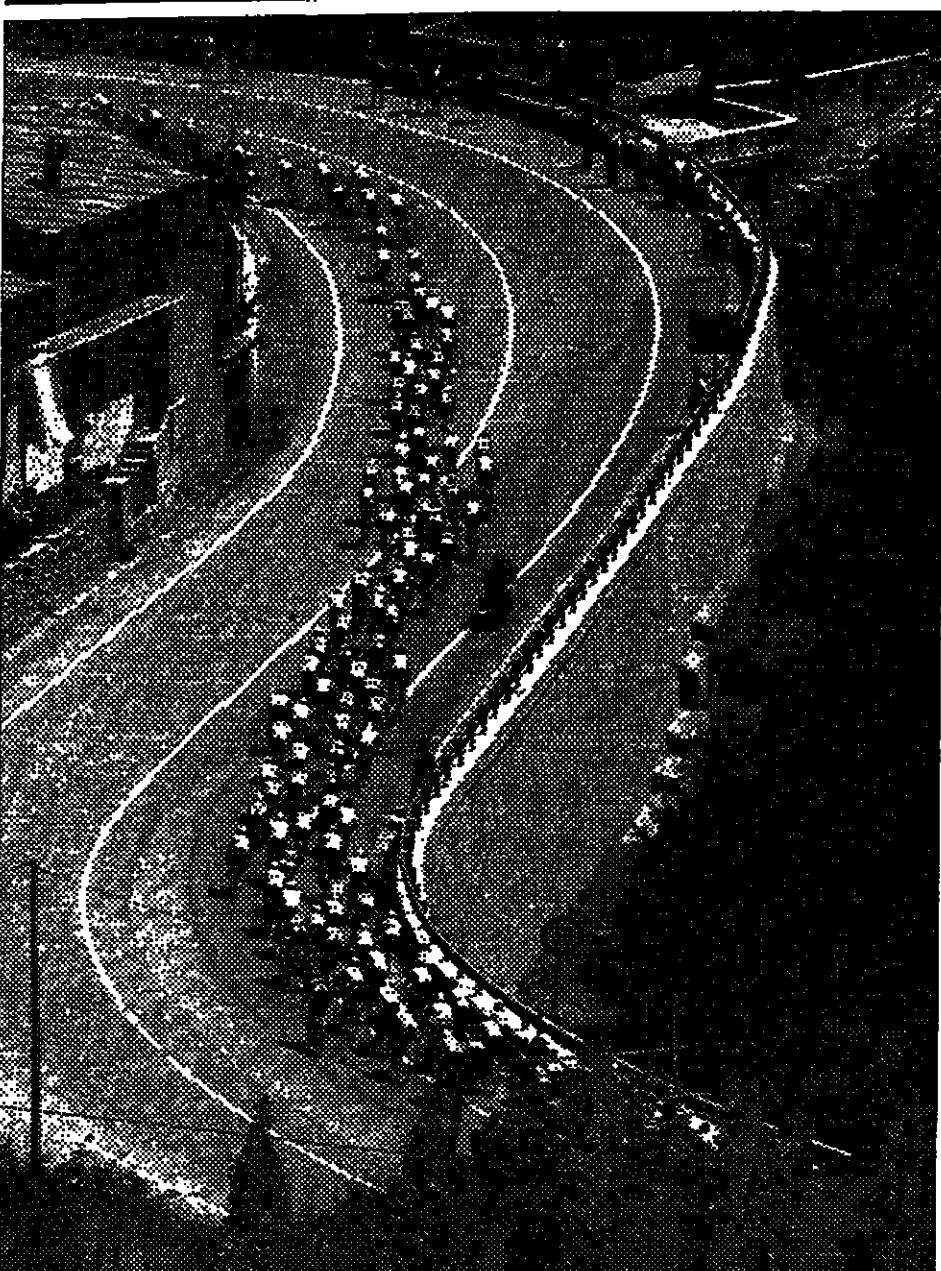
Jordan dairy company reports JD5.4 million of sales

THE JORDAN Dairy Company produced 6,766 tonnes of pasteurised milk and yoghurt, 596 tonnes of cheese and 230 tonnes of other products last year, according to the company's annual report. Total sales amounted to JD5.4 million of which JD485,000 were sales of the "plastic factory." The general assembly approved the distribution of JD262,500 in dividends to shareholders at a rate of 15 per cent. Shareholders' equity stood at JD2.26 million and total assets stood at JD3.2 million at the end of 1995 (Al Aswaq).

REUTERS

The Business of Information The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates					Prices as at				10/07/96 17:51		
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF		
US Dollar	-	1.5247	0.6437	1.2622	110.05	1.7785	1353.39	1.7114	5.1617		
German Mark	0.6535	-	0.4836	0.8366	73.63	1.9364	163.33	1.9364	5.4756		
GB Sterling	1.5535	1.5535	-	1.9608	170.91	2.1291	2384.46	2.6570	8.0161		
Swiss Franc	0.7875	0.7875	0.5193	-	136.03	1.4603	12.76	1.4603	4.3657		
JP Yen	0.0091	1.3832	0.5848	1.1463	-	1.3418	13.93	155.3000	4.6856		
IT Lira	0.0007	0.0007	0.0004	0.0024	1396.06	0.0029	-	11.16	3.3663		
FR Franc	0.1507	0.2956	0.1246	24.4997	21.31	0.1549	33.14	33.1400	-		
Energy											
Oil	Last	Previous	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY			
Brent	20.30	20.25	SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4066	0.17164	0.37703	29.3781			
WTI	20.30	20.25									
Bony	20.30	20.25	KW Dinar	1.3346	5.0667	2.14638	421.408	367.377			
UL Gas	203.00	201.00	CY Pound	2.7223	3.2313	1.3603	2.6797	231.663			
Metal Prices											
Metal	Bid	Offer	Period	1	2	3	4	5			
Gold (oz's)	382.4	383.3	Ouncy	Month	Months	Months	Months	Months	Year		
Platinum (oz's)	390.5	391.5	USD	5.91	5.50	5.75	5.50	6.06			
Ag (3 Months)	1920	1925	JPY	0.37	0.47	0.62	0.80	1.06			
Cu (3 Months)	1920	1925	DEM	1.19	1.20	1.21	1.22	1.23			
Lead (3 Months)	793	794	FRF	3.67	1.75	3.86	3.93	4.09			
Zn (3 Months)	730	732	ITL	9.15	8.00	8.58	8.30	8.20			
Main Equity Indices											
Bourse	Index	Value	Low	High	Pr Cls	% Chng	Chng				
New York	DOW JONES	5568.90	5557.85	5585.16	5581.86	-0.23	-12.93				
London	FT-SE 100	3766.6	3757.5	3773.2	3752.3	0.28	14.3				
Paris	CAC 40	2085.39	2081.37	2091.76	2076.57	0.42	8.82				
Energy											
Commodity	Last	Deliver	* JOD Cross Rates								
Coffee (c/lbs)	124.92	Spot	Currency	Buy	Sell						
Sugar (tq/ton)	20.48	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710						
Soya (c/lbs)	24.08	Spot	DE Mark	0.4638	0.4658						
Barley (3/bsh)	3.88	Spot	FR Franc	0.1369	0.1376						
			NL Guilder	0.4131	0.4157						
* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.											



The pack of the Tour de France pass near the Italian village of Susa during the 10th stage of the race between Torino and Gap. Denmark's Bjarne Riis retained his leader's yellow jersey (Reuters photo)

Tour de France Sun comes out as racers take a break

GAP, France (AP) — After more than a week of wind, snow and rain, the Tour de France finally got good weather Tuesday and immediately celebrated by taking a rest day.

The rest day was planned as the only break in the 21-day tour. Bjarne Riis of Denmark has the leader's yellow jersey and "five-time champion" Miguel Indurain is planning ways to chip away at his lead.

The riders need a break. The poor weather took its toll on the pack. Top names such as Lance Armstrong, Laurent Jalabert and Mario Cipollini all have withdrawn due to sickness already.

Snow even caused organisers to bypass two mountain climbs Monday.

The race will resume Thursday as it heads across France's Massif central for a

string of moderate to long stages featuring several short, steep climbs.

That was considered the perfect place for Indurain's challengers to attack the Spanish rider's lead, when it was expected Indurain would be in first.

Now Indurain is the one that can profit with a series of small attacks that could sap the strength of the seven riders ahead of him.

Indurain is in eighth place, 4:38 behind Riis. Indurain faltered over the weekend and a four-minute loss in Saturday's stage put him behind.

The Tour heads into the Pyrenees and then Spain for a stage on July 17 that ends near Indurain's hometown. The second time trial, on July 20, will probably crown the overall winner before the

final ceremonial spin through Paris on July 21.

Tuesday, Erik Zabel, of Germany, capped the first half of the race by taking his second stage win in another final sprint.

Zabel, who won the Tour's third stage, edged Djamolidin Abdoujaparov of Uzbekistan and Italy's Andrea Ferrigato.

"It's an extraordinary stage because our team rode the perfect race," said Zabel, whose Telekom team kept Riis in the overall lead and chased down Danish rider Rolf Sorensen in the final stretch.

Indurain, who turns 32 on Tuesday, is trying to become the first man to win a record six tours.

Only three others have managed to win five — Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx and Bernard Hinault.

Sousa signs for Borussia Dortmund

DORTMUND (AFP) — Portuguese international Paulo Sousa signed a three year contract with German champions Borussia Dortmund here on Wednesday.

The 25-year old playmaker will replace Germany's mid-fielder Steffen Freund, who is out injured until the end of the year after tearing ligaments in his left knee during the Euro 96 semifinal against England.

Dortmund chairman Michael Meier would not reveal the financial details of the contract, but indicated it was not higher than seven million Deutschmarks (\$4.5 million).

Brolin rumoured to be headed for Verona

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Swedish international midfielder Tomas Brolin may leave his current Premier League club Leeds for newcomers to Italy's first division Verona, local press reported on Wednesday.

Brolin refused to comment on the deal to the newspaper, saying only: "When everything is settled, I'll tell you."

The 26-year old has been unhappy at Leeds during the past season and rumours of a transfer have circulated for several months.

Spanish clubs Real Betis and Real Sociedad as well as Italian club Sampdoria have also displayed interest, but found the asking price of 30 million kroner (\$4.47 million) for the Swedish midfielder too high.

Verona will return to the Italian first division this season after four years in the second division and is looking to acquire a top player in order to stay there.

COUNTDOWN TO ATLANTA

Beyond golden Dream Team is a slugfest for silver

ATLANTA (AFP) — Overshadowed by "Dream Team III" at the Atlanta Olympics is an improved international basketball lineup with a likely three-team fight for a silver medal.

The latest United States collection of National Basketball Association (NBA) stars is expected to dominate in a similar fashion to the original group with Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird at the 1992 Games.

"I don't expect it to be as easy overall as it was for us in Barcelona because the foreign teams are much better now," U.S. coach Lenny Wilkens said.

"Croatia, Yugoslavia and Lithuania are the best teams because they have the most NBA players. They won't be as intimidated as some other teams might."

Those three are expected to repeat their battle from last year's European Championships, which saw Lithuania upset Croatia in the semifinals, only to lose to Yugoslavia in the final.

"You have to concede the gold medal to the United States," said Vladi Divac, a Yugoslavian centre who plays for the NBA Los Angeles Lakers.

"But a number of teams could win the silver. That's what we are all playing for and it would be an accomplishment to pull it off."

Divac, a member of the 1988 Olympic silver medalists, averaged 12.9 points and 8.6 rebounds for the Lakers while teammate Sasha Danilovic played only 19 games with Miami in his first NBA season due to wrist surgery.

Danilovic will be healthy in Atlanta and Yugoslavia will also have former NBA players Zarko Paspalj and Zdravko Zelezko.

Croatia and Yugoslavia, war-torn rivals who have yet to meet on the basketball court, might stand a chance united against the U.S. squad. Divided, they almost surely will fail.

"As one team, we would be awesome," Divac said. "But we're competing against each other for the silver medal now. Everyone already knows where the gold is going."

Croatia gave the closest fights to the original "Dream Team" in 1992, losing by 33 in the opening round and 32 in the championship game.

Semifinal losses at the 1994 World

Championships and 1995 European finals have been setbacks for a Croatian club that features Chicago's Toni Kukoc, Boston's Dino Radja and Toronto's Zoran Tabak from the NBA.

"The silver medal is up for grabs and I think we have a good chance to get it," Kukoc said. "Playing for the Bulls has helped my game. I'm stronger. I shoot better and I think I have a better all-around game now."

Kukoc was voted the NBA's best reserve, coming off the bench to score 13 points, four rebounds and 3.5 assists a game for the champion Bulls.

Radja led Boston with 19.7 points, 9.8 rebounds and 1.5 blocked shots a game despite missing 29 games with injuries. Tabak averaged 7.7 points and 4.8 rebounds for the first-year expansion Raptors.

Croatia also has former Boston centre Stojan Vrankovic of European Club champion Panathinaikos and outside threat Arijan Komazec, who averaged 23 points for Buckler Bologna of the Italian League.

Portland's Arvydas Sabonis and Denver's Sarunas Marculionis, who sparked the Soviet Union's 1988 Olympic championship, make Lithuania a medal threat. Lithuania, bronze medalists in 1992, also feature ex-U.S. collegian Arturas Karnishovas.

Sabonis led the 1992 Games with averages of 12.5 rebounds and 2.8 blocks while Marculionis led in assists with 8.3 and steals with 3.1 a game. Sabonis was second in scoring with 23.9 points a game with Sarunas third at 23.4 a game.

Lithuania and Croatia join the U.S. team in Pool A along with Argentina, African champion Angola and Asian champion China. Pool B has Yugoslavia, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Greece, South Korea and winning the silver probably means avoiding the U.S. team until the playoff final. If "Dream Team" dominates Pool A as expected, that means finishing second in Pool A, winning Pool B or placing third in Pool B.

"We know it is going to be tough to play against the Dream Team," Divac said. "But second is not so bad."

Australia features Andrew Gaze, who averaged 20.9 at Barcelona and 23.9 at the 1994 worlds. But centre Luc Longley is missing after ankle surgery following Chicago's NBA title run.

Argentians come for acclimation; soccer opener expected to sellout

CULLMAN, Alabama (AP) — Argentina's Olympic soccer team wants to beat the heat and their competition, so they are facing the muggy southern weather head on.

The players, who landed Monday, are the first in their sport to arrive in the United States.

"The staff and trainers thought that coming from when it is mid-winter in Buenos Aires to the hot temperatures would help acclimate the team to the weather," said Carlos E. De Giacomi, executive secretary of Asociacion Del Futbol Argentino, the sanctioning body of soccer in Argentina, and the president of the Argentine Olympic soccer delegation. "They felt it would take 10 to 12 days to get acclimated."

The Argentine players are practicing at Cullman, where a banner greeted them Monday: "Bienvenidos, Olympicos Welcome, Olympians."

The players and staff thanked city officials for their reception at a news conference Tuesday at St. Bernard prep school in Cullman.

"We hope to win with humility and respect," player Hernan J. Crespo said.

Head coach Daniel Passarella said the team was "received with a lot of affection," which he expects will last throughout their stay.

Even though Argentina is a favourite to win the gold medal in the

Olympics — as well as to capture the only major international prize that has eluded the south American soccer powerhouse — the team is taking nothing for granted.

"They don't think they have already won the gold medal," De Giacomi said. "If they did, they would go directly to Atlanta and get there."

That would upset quite a few soccer fans who are gobbling up Olympic tickets in Birmingham.

Olympic officials predicted that the opener between Argentina and the United States would be sold out by Wednesday.

Several cities where different teams are staying offered the international visitors a mix of Southern hospitality. Businesses hoped for profits from the Games.

In Cullman, store owner Ann Ros adjusted the Argentina flag flapping in the breeze next to a U.S. flag and an Olympic flag outside her business.

She anticipates increased sales at her store, which features a variety of sportswear decorated with Olympic themes.

"It's good for business," she said. "Just like the torch relay was good for business when it went through. We sold out of all of our torch relay T-shirts. I've had Olympic T-shirts on order since December, and they just keep sell-

ing."

Soccer isn't the only game in the state, however. In Jacksonville, the Nicaraguan baseball team played a squad of radio personalities Monday that included Randy Owen, lead singer with the country group Alabama. They were set to play another exhibition game at Jacksonville State University Tuesday night.

But soccer is the big event in Birmingham. About 260,000 tickets have been sold, and the July 20 opening ceremonies match between Argentina and the United States is near a sellout of about 79,000 tickets sold, said Gene Hallman, a spokesman for the game organisers.

About 44,000 tickets have been sold for the quarterfinal match on July 27, Hallman said. The game with the fewest tickets sold — 16,000 — is the July 24 Argentina-Tunisia match.

The July 20-28 games have not yet filled as many hotel rooms as expected. Ticket buyers have come from throughout the country, but the majority were sold in the southeast.

The Birmingham soccer organising committee reported that more than 40 percent of ticket buyers for the 11 first-round and quarterfinal games hail from outside Alabama.

Olympic flame arrives in Georgia with 8 days left for Games

SAVANNAH, Georgia (AFP) — Eight days before the centennial Olympics in Atlanta, the Olympic flame arrived in the state of Georgia, reaching Savannah by rail ship where it was carried ashore by a sailing champion.

The flame, which started its journey in Athens 74 days earlier, arrived in Los Angeles, the last U.S. city to host the summer games, in April. It still has 2,880 kilometers (1,800 miles) to go in Georgia before it reaches Atlanta in time for the opening ceremonies on July 19.

"This is a proud day for all of Georgia. We now have responsibility for this flame, and we are going to live up to our commitments," said Billy Payne, the chief executive officer of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

The flame was carried ashore after its trip from Florida by Mark Reynolds, who won a yachting gold medal for the United States at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

The ceremony in Savannah's Forsyth Park was within sight of the Savannah Olympic village, where yachting competitors and officials are housed.

Sailors from several teams, including Australia and the United States, were among the several thousand people who turned out for the show.

The yachting competition site is several miles away in Wassaw Sound. Payne, who flew the 440 kilometers (275 miles) from Atlanta to Savannah for the ceremony, said his job had not changed in the final countdown to the Olympics.

"I'm approaching the next 10 days like I did the last 3,600," Payne said. "You learn something new every day. Every day you work as hard as you can."

He added: "Sometimes I feel guilty that I'm not nervous. We've done our job for 10 years, and we're ready."

The first official welcoming ceremonies at the main Olympic village in Atlanta were scheduled for Wednesday.

Athletes were already training at Olympic venues, including the International Horse Park and the competition pool.

But teams from many of the 197 competing nations were still at training camps outside the host city, in some cases in neighbouring states.

Sports Countdown world lar

By Allen Rannayan
Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

ANIAN — As the track close by work men and a I not soon bad, the T rocer good Maje men are d facili for d SSC. "It will be the w we k ing in the ca

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Sports

Countdown begins for attempt to break world land speed record in Al Jafr

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

AMMAN — As the attempt to break the world land speed record in south-eastern desert of Al Jafr gets closer, organisers and designers are currently putting the finishing touches for the extraordinary project.

Thrust SSC, the super-sonic car which will be driven by British Air Force officer Andy Green, is now undergoing final engine tests in Britain before the biggest capacity Antonov plane brings it to the Kingdom.

As the countdown to the event begins, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre are busy with final preparations on the course where the attempt will be made.

RACJ will be timing the attempt on behalf of the international automobile

association FIA. RACJ spokesman Bader Rashid said marking signals were currently being placed on the 16 kilometre-long track and the event was closely being monitored by speed enthusiasts worldwide via the Internet, FIA, the Mach Club and others.

A press release by Castrol International, sponsors of the world record bid, said the organisers of the Thrust SSC project had received a message of goodwill from His Majesty King Hussein at a conference in London by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Hussein.

The prince said: "His Majesty and the government and people of Jordan are delighted to offer the facilities of Al Jafr desert for the testing of Thrust SSC."

"I believe the conditions will be very conducive to the work of the team and we look forward to helping in the preparation of the car for its world record

attempt."

Al Jafr was chosen by the head of the project, current world record holder Richard Noble, after he had scoured three continents and visited 14 other sites to find suitable conditions.

Noble said the "situation in Al Jafr is superb. We are close to a Jordanian Air Force base which offers both accommodation and access and we have a track of 16 kilometres of very hard, very flat surface on which to run."

The surface of the Al Jafr is baked, compacted mud and is expected to offer much better grip than sand or salt when Thrust SSC carries out trial runs in Jordan. The testing of the twin jet engine powered car will be a build up to September's scheduled attempt to beat Noble's current world record of 1019.44 kilometres per hour. Noble hopes to see Thrust SSC raise the record to 1368 kph.

The 9 tonne 16 metre

long monster accelerates to supersonic speed in 23 seconds.

Castrol have sponsored the research and development work for Thrust and will be providing lubricants for the Rolls Royce engines as well as for their aluminium alloy wheels which will rotate at 8500 rpm and have a massive heat build up.

Specially designed lubricants will be used to maintain the efficiency and peak performance of each of the 11340 kilogramme thrust of the twin jet engines.

The Thrust SSC's construction is very similar to a supersonic prototype fighter. The carbon and aluminium body panels will produce an extremely stiff structure which will preserve its aerodynamic shape while experiencing the high stress of supersonic flight just 250 millimetres of the ground.

Bowe will fight Golota

NEW YORK (R) — It will be a beefy Riddick Bowe who fights Andrew Golota Thursday after the former heavyweight champion tipped the scales at 252 pounds (114 kg) at the weigh-in on Tuesday.

In his last fight, an eighth-round knockout of Evander Holyfield nine months ago, Bowe fought at 246 pounds (112 kg).

Bowe's venerable trainer, 84-year-old Eddie Futch, was not bothered by his fighter's extra baggage.

"I don't care about his weight, he's a heavy-weight," Futch said of the 28-year-old Bowe, who has a 39-1 record and reigned twice as world champion in the last four years.

But Golota's trainer, Lou Duva, could not hide his delight at Bowe's weight. His unbeaten Polish fighter, who now fights out of Chicago, came in at 243 pounds (110 kg), right around his normal fighting weight.

"We don't have to worry about the weight, he's the guy who has to worry," Duva said.

And with two more days before the scheduled 10-round fight at Madison Square Garden, Duva could only guess at exactly how much more Bowe will weigh when he steps inside the ropes.

"He could come in at 260 pounds (118 kg) and as the rounds go by, it will be hard to keep going," Duva said.

"He is going to run out of gas. That is how we are going to win the fight." Other numbers suggest otherwise. Bowe is a 10-to-1 favourite.

Bowe has beaten many of today's top heavyweights, including Holyfield twice in a classic trilogy of fights against the former champion. Last year Bowe stopped both Englishman Herbie Hide and Cuban Jorge Gonzalez in the sixth round.

English League entices top foreign players

LONDON (R) — England's Premier League is starting to entice some of the world's best players away from Italy and the influx of foreign talent will keep growing, according to soccer officials.

Huge amounts of money pouring into English soccer has helped turn the Premier League into "the place to play," said a league official.

The off-season scramble by England's Premier League clubs which has seen Brazilians, Italians, Croats and Romanians join the swelling ranks of overseas players, is far from over.

English clubs are reported to have already spent 45 million Sterling (\$70 million) to secure the likes of Italian internationals Fabrizio Ravanelli, Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo, Brazilian Emerson and Romanian Florin Raducioiu and the chequebooks are still out.

"Clearly there is a developing view that the English Premier League is the place to be and the place to play," said league spokesman Mike Lee. "and the summer transfer season is not over yet."

"We have reversed the trend where top English players went overseas. This is a dynamic league, one of the most exciting to be in, and TV money makes it possible."

From the bleak days of the mid-1980s when English soccer slumped to a low-point with its expulsion from European club competitions in the wake of hooliganism and the deaths of fans in football-terrace disasters, the game has been transformed.

Lucrative satellite television deals, growing sponsorship and better marketing have funded the changes, while more exciting soccer, improved stadia and better policing have

brought the fans flooding back.

It has all contributed to making England as attractive as Italy or Spain for the world's leading players.

"The premiership can now compete with any league in the world for players," said Sam Hamman, millionaire owner of Wimbledon Soccer Club.

That is partly because every Premier League club will collect nine million Sterling (\$14 million) from the satellite television contract this season.

After the Premier League started in 1992, English clubs tended to buy Scandinavian players but the real catalyst came two years ago when Tottenham bought German international striker Juergen Klinsmann from Monaco.

His success, which ended in his winning the English footballer of the year award, encouraged Dutchman Ruud Gullit to join Chelsea from Italy and Brazilians Juninho and Branco to move to less-fashionable Middlesbrough last season.

Gullit has now succeeded Glenn Hoddle as manager of Chelsea and persuaded Vialli, Di Matteo and French defender Franck Leboeuf to move to the London club, while former England captain Bryan Robson signed another Brazilian, Emerson, at Middlesbrough.

The biggest signing of the close-season though was Robson's capture of Ravanelli for seven million Sterling (\$11 million).

Before this summer it would have been unimaginable for players of the calibre of Ravanelli and Vialli, seasoned internationals with Juventus, one of the world's richest clubs and European champions to boot, to move to England.

League officials say that although English clubs now have the money to compete in the world marketplace,

big wages are not all that is luring leading foreign players.

"It's not just the TV money that has attracted them but the reputation of English league football together with rising attendances, new stadia and great atmosphere," said Lee.

Another key turning point was the bosman ruling by the European court of justice which outlawed restrictions on the number of players from EU countries that a team could field.

That, together with the freedom of movement within the European union for players out of contract, has transformed the transfer market.

"The Bosman ruling makes it inevitable there will be more foreign players coming into the English game," said Lee.

Criticism that the influx of foreign talent is at the expense of British-born players and that the championship will be contested by a few rich clubs was dismissed by the Premier League.

"We like to think that one of the things achieved by TV money, sponsorship and rising attendances is that it means medium-size clubs are in with a genuine shout of the title," said Lee.

"To say the league is dominated by a few is not borne out by the facts. Signings by the likes of Middlesbrough have enabled a smaller club to develop into a new force in the game. TV money has meant more clubs are able to compete."

The Premier League is also funding youth development programmes. Lee said: "We want to attract top internationals to improve the general quality but don't want to lose sight of the development of our own players."

National League wins 3rd straight All-Star Game

PHILADELPHIA (R) — In a baseball season of explosive scoring, nine National League pitchers combined on a seven-hitter Tuesday to win the All-Star Game 6-0, with local boy Mike Piazza the offensive star and Most Valuable Player.

It was the first All-Star shutout in six years and extended the National League's winning streak to three games as the mid-summer classic returned to Philadelphia for the first time in 20 years.

While John Smoltz of the Atlanta Braves and eight relievers held the American League in check, Piazza, the Los Angeles Dodgers catcher, won the MVP by driving in two runs with a tape-measure homer and a double.

"I dreamed about this when I was a kid," said Piazza, a native of nearby Norristown, Pennsylvania. "It's the biggest thing that has happened to me. I'm really emotional now, really choked up."

Piazza helped the National League take a 40-26-1 lead in the series, which began in 1933. He became the first Dodger to be named All-Star MVP since Steve Garvey in 1978.

Smoltz was followed to the mound by Kevin Brown of the Marlins, Tom Glavine of the Braves and Ricky Bottalico of the Phillies, each of whom did not allow a hit.

Pedro Martinez of the Expos gave up two hits in the sixth, but Steve Trachsel of the Cubs worked a 1-

2-3 seventh.

Todd Worrell of the Dodgers surrendered two hits in the eighth. New York Mets centre fielder Lance Johnson, who got the start because of an injury to San Diego's Tony Gwynn, led off and sliced a line drive crowing off left fielder Albert Belle for a double. Johnson moved to third on a groundout and came home on a bouncer to first by the "Giants" Barry Bonds.

Piazza struck again in the third, doubling home Cincinnati's Barry Larkin with two out off Chuck Finley of the Angels to give the NL a 4-0 lead.

Cleveland's Kenny Lofton became just the fourth player in All-Star history to steal more than one base in a game.

St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Ozzie Smith made his 14th and final All-Star game appearance and received a long, emotional ovation when he came to bat in the seventh inning. The 41-year-old Smith has announced he will retire at the end of the season.

"The reception has been wonderful. I can't say thank you enough to all the people who have come out and thanked me that way. Yeah, it's a very touching time, a very emotional time for me in my life. Tears are still in my eyes."

Chicago White Sox slugger Frank Thomas was scratched from the AL starting lineup due to a strained left foot. Boston's Mo Vaughn took his place.

Ripken was injured while the AL All-Stars were assembled for their team picture. White Sox relief ace Roberto Hernandez slipped off a platform and caught Ripken in the face with his left forearm.

Ripken, who has played in a Major League record 2,239 consecutive games, started his 13th straight All-Star Game.

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15

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WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

10 Pass Pass 10

Pass 2NT Pass 7

What action do you take?

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

107 084 088 44KJ884

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

10 Pass 10 Pass

20 Pass 2NT Pass

What action do you take?

Q. 5 - As South vulnerable, you hold:

4KJ744 0J6 0KJ982 40

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

10 20 Pass 7

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PALESTINIANS ENJOY A WARM SUMMER DAY: A group of Palestinians escape the heat by sitting in the shade under a big portrait of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in one of the Gaza Strip gardens Wednesday. The temperature reached 38 degrees Celsius in Gaza Strip (Reuters photo)

Riyadh, Damascus urge world to pressure Israel, demand Iraq to implement U.N. resolutions

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia and Syria on Wednesday called for world pressure to force the new Israeli right-wing government to respect the peace process with the Arabs and ensure its success.

"The Saudi kingdom and Syria urge the concerned countries, the United Nations and international institutions to join efforts to make Israel respect the principles of peace and honour its commitment," a joint statement said.

The two sides expressed their commitment to U.N. land-for-peace resolutions 242, 338 and 425 following a

meeting of the joint Saudi-Syrian committee in the Saudi capital.

Such resolutions guarantee "the total Israeli withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights, South Lebanon and all Palestinian territories, including the city of Jerusalem," they said.

Riyadh and Damascus said the "continuation of the peace process and the resumption of peace negotiations required a commitment to apply the principles of peace, particularly resolutions 242, 338 and 425."

Saudi Arabia offered its support to Damascus in its struggle "to counter obsta-

cles placed by Israel (...) to free itself of its responsibilities toward the peace process."

"Riyadh totally supports Syria's just claims and efforts to recover its land in line with the resolutions," the statement added.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharra, who co-chaired the meetings with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al-Faisal, on Tuesday accused Israel of engaging in "terrorism" and warned the peace process could grind to a halt.

His comments came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was

explaining his right-wing policies in Washington to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The Saudi-Syrian statement also called on Iraq to "apply all U.N. resolutions" concerning the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis and "free all Kuwaiti prisoners of war and those of other nationalities."

But both said they were "very committed to Iraq's territorial integrity and opposed to any threat against the country's sovereignty."

They also condemned as a "terrorist act" the June 25 truck bombing that killed 19 U.S. military personnel in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

Iraqi oil deal held up by French-Russian dispute

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Last minute objections from France and Russia are holding up guidelines for the prompt adoption of the "oil-for-food" agreement signed between the United Nations and Iraq, diplomats here said.

The U.N. Sanctions Committee was ready to act on the guidelines late Tuesday, but had to delay the meeting because of what Committee President Antonius Eitel called a "minor question."

"We will meet again on Friday in order to adopt in the committee the expedited procedures," the German ambassador said.

Mr. Eitel said he was fairly confident the agreement would go through, saying that some delegations were awaiting instructions from their governments.

The ambassador did not name any names, but said the problem was "not between the normal contenders."

Mr. Eitel may have been referring to a longstanding French-American

dispute over how the "oil-for-food" deal should be implemented: France calls for maximum flexibility, while Washington wants the accord to be monitored as strictly as possible.

Since it was signed on May 20, the deal allowing Iraq to export up to two billion dollars worth of oil every six months to buy badly needed food and med-

icines has been tied up with the 15-member sanctions committee, whose experts have drawn up a 12-page report with the main details.

The approval of the details would mark a new stage in the slow and chaotic process to enact the oil-for-food deal, diplomats said.

Another stumbling block delaying the guidelines is the Russian delegation which apparently has not received timely instructions from Moscow on how to vote on the guidelines.

The main sticking points in nearly two months of discussion are the price-fixing mechanism to be used in the deal and the choice of four experts to monitor and approve oil transactions

between Iraq and foreign companies under the agreement.

The sanctions committee will select the independent experts from various countries and appoint them as overseers at the U.N. headquarters here, the document said.

Mr. Eitel said there were at present some 12 candidates to the four posts, but that the final number could be increased.

Diplomatic sources said the United States, France and Norway are strong choices for three of the four monitoring posts, but that the fourth was being disputed among Russia, the European Union and Italy.

In addition to these over-

seers, the sanctions committee will also have to choose up to 44 inspectors in charge of supervising Iraq's oil exports and the arrival of humanitarian shipments.

Mr. Eitel stressed that even with the approval of the guidelines, the oil-for-food deal would not become a reality until U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali approve it.

U.S. officials have said the Iraqi plan is unacceptable because it gives Baghdad too much control over food distribution, particularly in areas controlled by rebel Kurds.

Chinmaya Gharekhan, counsellor to Dr. Ghali, Monday started a series of meetings with Iraqi envoy Abdul Amir Al-Anbari to discuss the plan.

U.S. President Bill Clinton charged Iraq Tuesday with continued violations of U.N. resolutions concerning the six-year ceasefire agreement signed after the 1991 Gulf war, but stressed support for allowing oil sales to relieve the suffering of the Iraqi people.

"We are determined to see the resolution implemented as the council intended: a mechanism to bring relief to suffering Iraqis, while denying the benefits of the oil sales to" Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Mr. Clinton said.

4 journalists get scholarships to cover U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Four young journalists from developing countries were awarded scholarships Monday to enable them to cover the three-month U.N. General Assembly session opening in September. They were M'amonahela Masupha of the Mirror newspaper, Lesotho; Amira Al Hussaini of the Gulf Daily News, Bahrain; Unaloto Ofakimale Kaukimoce of Radio Fiji and Martineza Batista De Oliveira of Women's Feature Service, Brazil. The awards are given annually by the U.N. Correspondents Association's Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund, set up in tribute to the second U.N. secretary-general, who was killed in an air crash in Africa in 1961.

Australia's camels are a traffic hazard

SYDNEY (R) — An outback Australian town has declared local camels a night-time traffic hazard and has hung tail-lights off them to prevent cars and pedestrians colliding with the so-called ships of the desert. The local authorities of Broome, a remote resort town on the north-west coast, decided about two weeks ago to fit camels with battery-powered, flashing red tail-lights after a number of near misses on and around Broome's famous cable beach. "You couldn't see them at night," Broome Shire Council Clerk Greg Powell told Reuters by telephone Wednesday from the old Indian Ocean pearling port, about 3,300 kilometres northwest of Sydney. Hundreds of pedestrians and vehicles descend daily on Cable Beach in the late afternoon to watch the sun go down, as well as about 30 camels bearing tourists on Sunset Beach treks. "It can be quite eerie. You can't see them (after sunset) and the next minute you can be surrounded by camels," Mr. Powell said, adding they were also a hazard off the beach as they were led silently back along Broome's roads to their stables each night. The camel owners hang the bicycle tail-lights from the back of the saddles.

Store rejects credit cards of world's 10th richest man

MANILA (AFP) — The world's 10th richest man, Chinese-Filipino tycoon Tan Yu, was forced to wait half an hour after machines at the airport's duty free stores could not verify his credit cards, newspapers reported Tuesday. Mr. Tan Yu purchased \$1,836 worth of chocolates and liquor and presented an American Express gold card and a Visa gold card to pay for the goods when he arrived from Taiwan, said Edwin Clemente, duty free sales assistant. But after the cards were swiped, the credit card verification machine kept replying "try again." "It may be that his bank account has insufficient funds or that there was some communication problem," Mr. Clemente was quoted as saying. As he tried to process the billionaire's purchases, Mr. Tan Yu, dressed in a cowboy hat, white pants and jacket waited patiently in the arrival area with his daughter, businesswoman Elena Coyuto, the reports said. Finally, Mr. Clemente called the Manila office of American Express where they allowed him "to approve the deal and let him (Tan Yu) sign the slip." Mr. Tan Yu, who owns extensive properties in the Philippines, Taiwan, United States and Canada, was named by Forbes magazine as the world's 10th richest man, holding assets worth \$7 billion.

Taliban rocket kills four

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Taliban rockets slammed into a western suburb of Kabul on Wednesday killing four people and wounding five others, hospital officials said.

The assault came as Afghanistan's new Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar warned Taliban rebels of a major offensive to end what has become daily rocket attacks on the capital.

"We have asked them to stop rocketing... if they insist then we will push them back from the city," Mr. Hekmatyar said in a news conference in the capital. He didn't say when the assault may occur. The Taliban militia of former Islamic religious students have been pounding the city daily since June 26 when Mr. Hekmatyar was sworn in as the new prime minister.

Since then hospital officials say at least 150 people have been killed and hundreds more wounded.

The Taliban army, dug in on the outskirts of Kabul, is demanding the resignation of both Mr. Hekmatyar and President Burhanuddin Rabbani. They want to establish a rigid Islamic government in Kabul.

Both Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar have offered to negotiate a peace deal with the Taliban that would give them a place in the new coalition government.

So far they have refused and have promised to continue their assault on the war ravaged capital.

Muasher: Citizens to be compensated for higher bread prices

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher said Wednesday that plans to lift subsidies from wheat will not lead to an increase in the prices of bread for citizens who will be receiving annual payments to offset the increase in the cost of bread. He said the government will put a mechanism to distribute subsidies to citizens who will be divided into three categories.

Dr. Muasher said the first group includes Jordanians with National Aid Fund coupons whose number totals 200-250 persons. This group will be given bread for free.

The second group comprises Jordanians working in public and army sectors who have Ministry of Supply coupons and who will be given JD 15 annually to help them buy bread at the expected new price of 250 fils per kilo.

The third group, he said, which includes Jordanians with high income who are not entitled to Ministry of Supply coupons will also be refunded for the extra cost they pay for bread.

Dr. Muasher stressed that the government has been studying this project to restrict subsidies to the "genuine beneficiaries and to stop the waste of this subsidised food item

in a bid to cut down on amount of subsidy borne by the treasury."

"Every Jordanian will receive JD15.260 every year to offset differences between the current and new prices of bread to ensure that none will be affected," Dr. Muasher said.

"By providing the annual subsidy to Jordanians, the government will be paying a total of JD 64 million from the treasury," he said.

Dr. Muasher added that cutting down government expenditures will save the country \$53 million annually.

He said the government has been subsidising bread by JD 80 million; fodder by JD 80 million; sugar, powdered milk and rice by JD 40 million.

Dr. Muasher added the government was forced to lift subsidies for bread due to the increase of the cost of the prices of wheat on the international market.

The prices of wheat had gone up by more than three folds and the amount of funds allocated in the budget for subsidising wheat would only cover one third of the cost.

He said maintaining subsidy will mean a budget deficit which the International Monetary Fund has warned the Kingdom of developing.

Hizbollah frees two SLA captives, keeps dead Israeli soldiers

BEIRUT (R) — The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) freed two captured fighters of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) on Wednesday but said it would keep the remains of two Israeli soldiers for a future exchange deal.

Naeem Qassem, Hizbollah's deputy secretary-general, freed the two SLA militiamen ambushed in Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone in 1993 and 1994 during a news conference in Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburbs.

"This initiative comes in the course of continuous efforts to evoke the issue of prisoners and detainees inside the jails of the Zionist enemy and his agents," Sheikh Qassem said.

Israel was holding 70 Lebanese prisoners inside Israel and its SLA allies are holding about 200 Lebanese without trial in a hilltop jail at Khiam inside the zone, Sheikh Qassem said.

He accused Israel of "aborting a number of exchange proposals... by

linking the fate of Lebanese detainees with the unknown fate of the Zionist pilot Ron Arad" who was captured in October 1986 after his plane was downed over South Lebanon.

Israel has in the past said Mr. Arad was in the hands of Iranians or their followers in Lebanon and insisted he should be part of any deal to free Lebanese prisoners.

"We don't know anything about Arad. If we did, we would not have hesitated in using him to free our dear brothers and sisters in jails," Sheikh Qassem said.

"Everyone knows the names of the two dead Israelis we have. We don't have any others and we don't know of any others. We will keep the two for a future exchange deal," he added.

This was a reference to Yossi Fink and Rachamim Al Sheikh captured by Hizbollah in South Lebanon in 1986. Israel said in 1991 it had received confirmation from Hizbollah the two were dead.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Opposition leaders in Israel said Wednesday they saw little hope for the Middle East peace process after the summit meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington.

"The peace process is in danger of dying," said Ephraim Sneh, Labour member of Knesset and former health minister.

Mr. Sneh told state radio that Mr. Netanyahu's pledge to pursue settlement activity in the Palestinian territories was the gravest cause for

concern. "Netanyahu's key phrase was the one on settling the West Bank and Gaza in line with his government's policy," he said.

"That means there will be no separation between Israelis and Arabs. There will not be two distinct national entities."

"Netanyahu did not hide from President Clinton his minimum target for the number of Israeli settlers in the territories this year: 250,000 people" compared to 145,000 now, Mr. Sneh added.

"Other left-wing leaders were scathing about the

Israel-U.S. summit spells doom for peace process — opposition

vaunted "chemistry" between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Clinton as they watched the White House press conference on television Tuesday.

"Seen on the small screen, the two men's press conference showed evidence there was no chemistry between them," said Yossi Sarid, head of the left-wing Meretz Party.

"They gave the impression they were finding it very difficult not to disagree in public," he said.

Yossi Beilin, who was minister in charge of the peace process under former

Labour Premier Shimon Peres, said "deep differences were perceptible between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Netanyahu."

He said he noticed divisions between the two leaders over the much-delayed redeployment of Israeli troops from the West Bank town of Hebron, the settlements issue and the pursuit of the peace process.

Mr. Netanyahu, on his first official visit to Washington since his May 29 election, refused to be pinned down on the Israeli redeployment in Hebron or whether he would meet

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Despite efforts to cover up their differences, the press conference given by Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Clinton was edgy at times, especially when the rightwing Israeli leader expressed his doubts about the principle of land for peace which Washington has pledged to uphold.

Mr. Clinton also appeared distinctly ill at ease when he was asked about his open support for peace architect Peres during the Israeli election campaign.

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